

NCAA TOURNAMENT: UNC
a force on offense [Back page](#)

TV: How Alex Trebek
became an icon [Page 38](#)

VIDEO GAMES: Plenty to
love about 'Division 2' [Page 26](#)

EUROPE
& PACIFIC

WEEKEND
EDITION

MOVIES
Jordan Peele
shows he's
a master of
horror with 'Us'
[Profile, Page 24](#)
[Review, Page 25](#)

STARS AND STRIPES.®

[stripes.com](#)

Volume 77, No. 241 ©SS 2019

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2019

平成32年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥100

\$1.00

ANALYSIS

ISIS down, but defeat could be short-lived

By ROBERT BURNS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a campaign that spanned five years and two U.S. presidencies, unleashed more than 100,000 bombs and killed untold numbers of civilians, the U.S. military engineered the destruction of Islamic State's self-proclaimed empire in Iraq and Syria.

That's a military success, but not necessarily one that will last.

ISIS is down, but it is not done. President Donald Trump on Wednesday flashed a color-coded map to illustrate what he called the imminent demise of ISIS in its last speck of Syrian territory. At its peak, in 2014-15, it controlled an area the size of Britain across Syria and Iraq and launched a series of extremist attacks around the world.

His suggestion of finality for the anti-ISIS struggle, however, seemed premature.

If history is a guide, the reconquering of ISIS-held territory could prove to be a short-lived victory unless Iraq and Syria fix the problem that gave rise to the extremist movement in the first place: governments that pit one ethnic or sectarian group against another.

The U.S. military has been through this scenario before. In 2001, after the Sept. 11 attacks, the U.S. invaded Afghanistan, ousted the ruling Taliban regime in a matter of weeks and installed Hamid Karzai as the country's leader. The war seemed to be over. The Taliban, however, regrouped while Washington shifted its attention to Iraq's Saddam Hussein, and by 2009 the top U.S. commander in Kabul was calling the war a stalemate.

SEE ISIS ON PAGE 7



JOSHUA ARMSTRONG/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Je'Moni Ford, 9, and his family visited the Air Force Academy on March 15 through the "Cadet for a Day" program in partnership with the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Since 2000, the academy's "Cadet for a Day" initiative has provided young people facing severe medical challenges with the opportunity to experience life as a cadet.

Air Force Academy hosts visit from 9-year-old battling cancer

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

Ducked out in a kid-sized flight suit, Je'Moni Ford became the U.S. Air Force Academy's "youngest cadet" this month, quickly advancing from the fourth grade straight into college, at least for a day.

Je'Moni visited the academy outside Colorado Springs, Colo., as part of its "Cadet for a Day" program, in partnership with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which since 2000 has given young people facing severe medical challenges the chance to experience life as a cadet.

Two years ago, Je'Moni's parents noticed something on his ring finger and took him to the family doctor, who initially thought it was a friction blister caused by drumsticks — the 9-year-old is an avid drummer — the academy said in a statement this week.

It turned out to be a sarcoma, a rare kind of cancer that grows in connective tissues. Je'Moni underwent six surgeries to remove the tumor and reconstruct his hand, after which he had to relearn to tie his shoes.

SEE CADET ON PAGE 8

MILITARY

Pentagon watchdog probes Shanahan's links to Boeing

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department's Inspector General will probe allegations that acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan's actions as a Pentagon official might have benefited his former employer, Boeing, the Pentagon watchdog announced Wednesday.

The investigation will determine whether Shanahan has promoted Boeing, where he worked for more than 30 years before arriving at the Pentagon in 2017 or disparaged the massive aerospace firm's competitors, an IG statement said Wednesday. When Shanahan was sworn in as the deputy defense secretary in July 2017, he signed an ethics pledge, vowing he would recuse himself

from any issues that could impact Boeing.

The probe follows a complaint issued last week by an independent and nonpartisan government watchdog group based in Washington, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, or CREW, which questioned Shanahan's actions as the Pentagon's No. 2 civilian and as the acting secretary, his job since Jan. 1.

The acting secretary has been informed of the investigation, said Doreen Allen, a spokeswoman for the IG.

Shanahan has previously denied any wrongdoing and told lawmakers last week that he welcomed the probe.

"Acting Secretary Shanahan has at all times remained committed to upholding his ethics agree-

ment filed with the DOD," Army Lt. Col. Joe Buccino, a spokesman for Shanahan, said Wednesday.

"This agreement ensures any matters pertaining to Boeing are handled by appropriate officials within the Pentagon to eliminate any perceived or actual conflict of interest issue with Boeing."

In its March 13 complaint, CREW cited several media reports that indicated Shanahan in private meetings had promoted Boeing products to his subordinates and had disparaged Lockheed Martin, which was chosen over Boeing to build the F-35 Lightning II advanced fighter jet.

Shanahan, 56, was named acting defense secretary by President Donald Trump on Jan. 1 after serving as the Pentagon's No. 2 under former Defense Sec-



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan speaks at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington on Wednesday.

retary Jim Mattis since July 2017. He had previously been employed at Boeing since 1986, working on military-related programs as well as commercial aviation. He was serving as the company's senior vice president for supply chain and operations when he left to work at the Pentagon.

Shanahan has been considered

among Trump's top choices to be nominated to the defense secretary post, but Pentagon and White House officials have declined to comment publicly about him or others who could be tapped to fill the position.

dickstein.corey@stripes.com
Twitter: @CDicksteinDC

Army bill for public records on contaminant: nearly \$300K

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Army has put a price tag on releasing the results of water tests for a dangerous contaminant at military installations: nearly \$300,000.

In a March 12 letter, the Army told the Environmental Working Group, an advocacy group, that the military would charge the group \$290,400 to provide re-

cords of water tests at 154 installations for a family of compounds known as PFAS, which federal authorities say appear linked to certain cancers and other health and developmental problems.

Formally called perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, PFAS are found in firefighting foam used at military bases and are in a wide range of nonstick and stain-resistant consumer products. First made after World War II, the tough compounds have

been dubbed "forever chemicals" because they are expected to take hundreds or thousands of years to break up.

A deputy assistant Defense secretary, Maureen Sullivan, told a House panel this month that the Defense Department has identified 401 military sites where it believes PFAS were used and has found 24 U.S. military drinking water systems around the world with PFAS levels above the current U.S. advisory level.

Environmental attorneys asked for the water test records under the federal Freedom of Information Act.

"We are really trying to get the full scope of the problem, and it seems like the Pentagon has that data," said Melanie Benesh, one of the attorneys who made the request.

In the Army's letter, attorney Paul DeAgostino said the environmental group's request was too broad and asked the group

to narrow it. Complying with the request would take an estimated 6,400 work hours, he wrote.

The environmental group said it submitted an appeal on Wednesday.

Federal agencies typically waive fees for processing open-records requests for journalists, nonprofit advocacy or education groups or others seeking release of public records for the purposes of public education.

TODAY
IN STRIPES

American Roundup 19
Business 20
Comics, Crossword 42, 46-47
Faces 43
Opinion 44-45
Sports 52-64
Weather 20
Weekend 21-42

STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us,
wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

EUROPE

KRISTI KIMMEL

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

MIDDLE EAST

KRISTI KIMMEL

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

PACIFIC

ICHIRO KATAYANAGI

CustomerHelp@Stripes.com

+81(3) 6385.3267 DSN 315.229.3267

STARS AND STRIPES

EUROPE'S TOP 25 CASTLES

UMIC EUROPE MARKING 70 YEARS SERVING THE MILITARY OVERSEAS

1. Umicore is a leading provider of high-purity precious metals for the military. We supply gold, silver and platinum to the U.S. military and its allies. Our products are used in a wide range of military applications, from electronics to aerospace. We are committed to providing the highest quality products and services to our customers.

2. Umicore is a leading provider of high-purity precious metals for the military. We supply gold, silver and platinum to the U.S. military and its allies. Our products are used in a wide range of military applications, from electronics to aerospace. We are committed to providing the highest quality products and services to our customers.

3. Umicore is a leading provider of high-purity precious metals for the military. We supply gold, silver and platinum to the U.S. military and its allies. Our products are used in a wide range of military applications, from electronics to aerospace. We are committed to providing the highest quality products and services to our customers.

EUROPE'S TOP 25 CASTLES

HOW MANY HAVE YOU VISITED?

GET YOUR MAP IN THE
GERMANY WEEKEND EDITION OF

STARS AND STRIPES

FRIDAY, MARCH 28.

PACIFIC



PHOTOS BY MATT KEELER/Stars and Stripes

U.S. soldiers from Camp Casey and local volunteers clean up debris along the Shincheon River in Dongducheon, South Korea, on Thursday.

Camp Casey soldiers help clean local river in South Korean city

By MATT KEELER
Stars and Stripes

DONGDUICHEON, South Korea — Soldiers stationed near the North Korean border helped fill more than 80 trash bags with debris Thursday as they worked with local organizations to clean up the Shincheon River in their host city of Dongducheon.

Dongducheon Mayor Choi Yong-deok and Lt. Col. Shane Doolan, the 210th Field Artillery Brigade deputy commanding officer, offered opening words of appreciation to the local residents and approximately 100 Camp Casey soldiers who were participating.

"We cannot meet spring with garbage from last winter," Choi said before the annual event.

The volunteers began by throwing into the river biodegradable balls containing microorganisms aimed at preventing the growth of pathogenic bacteria.

The microorganisms help stabilize the acidity and reduce odor in the water, leading to a much cleaner environment beyond what the eye can see.

"I always had the heart wanting to help because I know how it is to be in a situation of needing to help yourself and not always being able to, so when I saw the opportunity to volunteer and come out to help, it was just a great opportunity to give back to the community," said Pfc. Joshua Smith, a unit supply specialist from St. Louis, Mo.

"They have been so gracious and welcoming to us to serve in their country, it was the least I could do to be of help," said Smith, who is assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 210th FAB.

Servicemembers and other volunteers ended up filling more than 80 trash bags with debris from the riverbank.

The annual event started in



Above: U.S. soldiers from Camp Casey throw eco-friendly biodegradable balls with effective microorganisms (shown at left) into the Shincheon River in Dongducheon, South Korea.

2004 and is a joint effort between the Dongducheon Do Dream Volunteer Center and Camp Casey soldiers to clean up a portion of the river that runs almost eight miles through the city.

"This river is used by not only the citizens, but also the U.S. soldiers. It's meaningful for us to clean together, and while we are cleaning we can cultivate our friendship, closeness and bond," Choi said.

Choi closed his speech by encouraging the soldiers to learn more about the local history and culture to enhance the friendships they make while assigned to the Dongducheon area.

Doolan thanked the troops for "volunteering and demonstrating the Army value of selfless

service."

"To the citizens of Dongducheon, I say thank you, you never miss an opportunity to support our community at Camp Casey," he added.

"I hope that this and other collaborative efforts between us and the city of Dongducheon will continue for many years to come," Doolan said.

Most of the some 28,500 U.S. servicemembers based in South Korea have moved to hubs south of Seoul as part of a long-delayed relocation plan. But the 210th FAB and other residual forces will remain at Camp Casey, near the border with North Korea, for the foreseeable future.

keeler.matthew@stripes.com

Companies pay fines in S. Korea bid-rigging case

Fuel-supply contracts for US bases involved

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Two South Korean companies have agreed to plead guilty and pay about \$127 million in a bid-rigging case involving fuel-supply contracts for U.S. military bases on the divided peninsula, the Justice Department said.

Hyundai Oilbank Co. Ltd. and S-Oil Corp. are the latest to be charged in a massive investigation into allegations that companies conspired to suppress and eliminate competition during the bidding process for lucrative fuel-supply contracts.

That caused the Defense Department to pay substantially more for fuel-supply services than under a normal bidding process.

The companies agreed to pay about \$75 million in criminal fines and \$52 million in separate civil cases, the Justice Department said. They also agreed to cooperate in the ongoing criminal investigation.

Seven South Korean individuals, including managers and executives, also were charged in the three-count indictment from the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio that was unsealed Wednesday.

"These charges reflect the Antitrust Division's commitment to prosecuting bid rigging and fraud — especially when those crimes directly target taxpayer dollars that the U.S. military's critical work," Assistant Attorney General Makan Delrahim said in the statement.

The investigation was launched after a tip was received on the Defense Logistics Agency Inspector General's hotline.

It was first announced in November when three other South Korean companies — SK Energy Co. Ltd., GS Caltex Corp. and Hanjin Transportation Co. Ltd. — agreed to pay about \$236 million in criminal and civil penalties.

The Justice Department said at the time that the violations occurred during the bidding process for contracts from 2005 to 2016.

Some 28,500 U.S. servicemembers are stationed in South Korea, which remains technically at war with the North after their 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

The Defense Logistics Agency and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service are responsible for contracts with South Korean companies to supply fuel to military bases.

Hyundai Oilbank, S-Oil and the seven individual defendants were charged with participating in a conspiracy "to suppress and eliminate competition during the bidding process" for fuel-supply contracts to all branches of service.

"The also were accused of 'participating in a conspiracy to defraud the United States by impairing, obstructing, and defeating the lawful function of the procurement process for the fuel-supply contracts,'" the Justice Department said.

But the Antitrust Division agreed to move to dismiss the second count against the companies upon sentencing as part of its plea agreements, which are subject to court approval, according to the Justice Department.

The third count charged one of the South Korean defendants, identified as Hee-Soo Kim, with "tampering with a witness by use of intimidation, threats, or corrupt persuasion," to hinder communication with a U.S. law enforcement officer.

S-Oil said it "deeply regrets this incident" and "vows to exert all possible efforts to ensure such misconduct does not repeat itself."

Hyundai Oilbank also promised to take measures and conduct training to ensure fair and transparent transactions going forward.

"The criminal charges and fines announced today demonstrate the heavy consequences for those who subvert competition through collusion and price fixing," said Paul Sternal, deputy director of the Defense Department's criminal investigative service.

The civil investigation was the result of a whistleblower lawsuit filed under the False Claims Act, which allows for private parties to sue on behalf of the United States and to share in any recovery.

Constantine Cannon LLP, the law firm representing the anonymous whistleblower in the civil case, said it was the largest-ever settlement involving bid-rigging under the False Claims Act.

Eric Havian, a lead attorney in the case, said the whistleblower is a South Korean and is entitled to between 15 percent and 25 percent of what is recovered for the government in the civil portion of the case.

"The fact that it was a whistleblower who was responsible for bringing the case is what is most significant," he said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report.
gamel.kim@stripes.com
Twitter: @kingamel

MILITARY

Ramstein car thefts prompt security warnings

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
AND MARCUS KLOECKNER
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — U.S. military and German police are warning drivers to secure their vehicles and electronic fobs following two high-value thefts from a small village near Ramstein Air Base earlier this week.

Two cars were stolen overnight Tuesday in Mackenbach. One of the vehicles, a 2018 white BMW X5 SUV, belonged to an American, according to reports from the Kaiserslautern police and the 569th U.S. Forces Police Squadron at Vogelweh. The other car was a German-owned Audi A5.

Both vehicles were parked on the same street, Auf der Platte, police said. "It is not unusual (in) this area that cars are stolen," Kaiserslautern police spokeswoman Christiane Lautenschaefer said. "But two cars in one night in the same vil-

lage and the same street, this sticks out." The 569th is investigating the incidents with the Kaiserslautern police.

Lautenschaefer said they have no suspects, but investigators believe that criminal groups may be using technology to gain access to keyless cars, such as newer-model BMWs, by cloning key fob signals and enabling the "push-to-start" feature of the vehicle, Maj. Tyler Hughes, 569th U.S. Forces Police Squadron commander, said in a statement to Stars and Stripes.

Keyless cars can be unlocked and started automatically when the fob is close by.

American BMW owners were victims in a string of keyless car thefts in the Kaiserslautern area in September 2017. A BMW X5 was stolen from an American living in Hohenekken, while another American had a BMW X6 stolen from Queidersbach.

But keyless BMWs aren't the only ones at risk. Hundreds of keyless models were found to be vulnerable to a "keyless hack-

er attack" in a recent test conducted by the German General Automobile Club, or ADAC.

Of 237 models examined, 230 could be stolen in seconds using devices found in most electronic stores or online very cheaply, said the ADAC report, published last month.

Only models built by Jaguar Land Rover were impenetrable to the hacking technology, the ADAC study found.

Thieves can build devices that extend the signal range of the key fob by hundreds of yards, allowing them to open and drive off with the car. The ADAC study noted this signal hacking is possible if the key is in the house or "in the pants or jacket pocket" of an owner.

Once the engine is running, it usually remains in operation without a key if there is fuel in the tank. The car can be refueled while the engine is running, the report said.

Hughes recommends keyless car owners park in a locked garage or well-lit area; and secure their key fob in a box or container that prevents the signal from reaching the vehicle. Using a mechanical steering wheel locking device is another suggestion, Hughes said.

Wrapping a key in tin foil is not a reliable remedy, says ADAC, since the radio waves can pass through it.

The Kaiserslautern police released the license plate numbers of the two cars stolen from Mackenbach: The BMW X5 has the license plate number KL-PD 332 and the Audi A5 has the license plate number KL-DB 911. Kaiserslautern police ask that anyone with information about the thefts call: +49(0) 631-369-2620, or call the KMC Law Enforcement Desk to report suspicious activity: +49 (0) 631-636-6060/7070.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com
Twitter: @stripesdown
kloeckner.marcus@stripes.com

Crews clear way for permanent F-35 jet campus in Europe

By WILLIAM HOWARD
Stars and Stripes

RAF LAKENHEATH, England — Demolition crews have begun clearing buildings on this base in eastern England, breaking down concrete and steel to make way for the U.S. military's newest fighter jets.

Workers on Thursday leveled the ground after earlier this month using a hydraulic excavator to chew apart the heavily reinforced buildings, as part of preparations for two U.S. F-35A Lightning II stealth jet squadrons slated to arrive in 2021.

The crews will demolish 18 buildings to make way for a new six-bay flight simulator facility, maintenance unit, hangars and storage facilities.

"The 48th Fighter Wing is excited to start the demolition of existing facilities to clear the site for the F-35 campus," Air Force Col. Christopher Leonard, 48th Mission Support Group commander, said in a statement.

The effort is in collaboration with the United Kingdom's Defense Infrastructure Organization.



SHANICE WILLIAMS-JONES/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Demolition work started earlier this month in preparation for the future F-35A Lightning II squadrons at RAF Lakenheath, England. The demolition of Building 1290 is a part of the 48th Fighter Wing's effort to prepare for the arrival projected for 2021.

The Suffolk base will be the first permanent international stop for U.S. Air Force F-35s in Europe. The Royal Air Force currently has nine F-35s in its inventory, stationed nearby at RAF Marham.

The demolition work began as the White House seeks to free up some \$3.6 billion by possibly

delaying or canceling planned Pentagon construction projects to fund a border wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Earlier this week, the Pentagon released a list of \$12.9 billion worth of projects that had not been awarded contracts as of Dec. 31 and could be defunded to build the wall.

The 21-page list includes more than \$600 million in projects in Europe, including construction at U.K. bases Croughton, Fairford and Lakenheath. Barracks projects, including an F-35 squadron dormitory at Lakenheath, won't be impacted, according to a fact sheet accompanying the list.

No projects for which contracts have already been awarded or which are expected to be awarded before the end of September were included on the list.

The British government awarded a \$205 million contract for the RAF Lakenheath construction project to a joint venture between U.K.-based firms Kier and VolkerFitzpatrick in November.

The deal was the first in a large program to support Air Force operations in the U.K., with a further \$1 billion expected to be

invested over the next seven to 10 years, the DIO said.

About 700 contractors are expected on base at the height of construction for the F-35 campus. Once complete, it will host an additional 1,200 U.S. airmen and 48 aircraft assigned to the U.K.

More than 9,100 servicemembers were assigned to the country as of December, according to Pentagon data.

howard.william@stripes.com
Twitter @HowardStripes

SPECIAL OFFER

Military Discounts on all flights between January - March

Military ID-Card holders & family members only

Atlanta	414 €
Dallas	409 €
Las Vegas	399 €
Tampa	438 €

Need help? Call us!

0621-72920

www.abctravel.de

Flights from January 13 to March 31, 2019 RTW/ to Germany. Prices starting from, including all taxes, based on availability. Get Military discount fares all year! ABC Travel Service e.K., Gönnerheim 2, 68309 Mannheim

Death of S. Korean worker at Camp Carroll investigated

By KIM GAMEL
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A South Korean man who worked as a sheet metal mechanic for the U.S. Army has died at Camp Carroll, officials said Thursday.

Kim Song-Cho, 66, a full-time employee with the Directorate of Public Works, died Wednesday while on the job, according to a press release from Army Garrison Daegu, which includes Camp Carroll.

The garrison, which is near the southeastern city of Waegwan,

didn't provide more details pending the ongoing investigation.

However, local police involved in the probe said it appeared to be an accident.

"This is devastating for all of us, but our number one priority is taking care of Kim's family and assisting his co-workers at this time," garrison commander Col. Robert Mann said.

"Our sincerest condolences go out to the family, friends and co-workers of Mr. Kim," he said. "He wasn't just an employee here. He was part of our USAG Daegu family."

The investigation was being led

by South Korean police with help from garrison emergency services and the Eighth Army safety offices, the press release said.

The incident occurred just before 2 p.m. while Kim was doing repair work on a roof panel near a sewage disposal plant, according to Park Jong Bo, a chief investigator at the local Chilgok police station.

Kim apparently died after he was caught in the pump's rotor blade while trying to retrieve something he had dropped, Park told Stars and Stripes.

"The details of the accident are still under investigation," he

said, adding that foul play was not suspected.

Chaplains on the garrison were providing grief counseling to co-workers and first responders as well as reaching out to Kim's family, the press release said.

A funeral service was planned for 9 a.m. Friday at the WaeGwan Nog Hyup funeral hall. Camp Carroll, about 130 miles southwest of Seoul, is one of several bases maintained by the U.S. military, which has some 28,500 servicemembers stationed in South Korea.

gamel.kim@stripes.com
Twitter: @kimgame
chang.kyong@stripes.com

MILITARY

Exercise targets rise in piracy off West African coast

By SCOTT WYLAND
Stars and Stripes

A U.S.-led exercise aimed at boosting cooperation between West African nations in maritime policing comes at a time when seaborne piracy in some areas is increasing and the trans-Atlantic drug trade remains active.

Thirty-three countries are taking part in this year's Obangame Express off the West African coast so they can better combat crimes like piracy, drug smuggling and human trafficking.

The navies practice together during simulations to spot, raid and search suspicious ships, as well as to detain suspects and properly handle evidence.

The nine-day exercise, which ends Friday, is one of three sea-policing drills hosted by U.S. Africa Command. The other two are Cutlass Express in East Africa and Phoenix Express in the Mediterranean.

Obangame was first launched

in 2010 when piracy reached record levels off the coast of West Africa. The push to improve collaborative policing among African countries that were not used to working together helped reduce piracy in the region. But after a period of decline, it surged again in the Gulf of Guinea in 2018.

"U.S. efforts have helped but things ebb and flow, and since the underlying drivers have not changed, then constant vigilance is still needed," said Christopher Jasparr, national security affairs professor at the Naval War College. "Waters off Nigeria have persistently been the main piracy and sea robbery hotspot."

Last year, the Gulf of Guinea recorded 48 incidents of piracy, up from 33 in 2017 and 14 in 2014, according to the International Maritime Bureau, which tracks seaborne crimes globally. The region had the worst acts of piracy overall in the world, including all six hijackings, 13 of the 18 ships



TAMARA VAUGHN/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Alyssa Perry works with a member of the Gambian navy to treat a simulated wound during a drug smuggling and human trafficking scenario Monday near Gambia as part of Obangame Express. The exercise seeks to improve teamwork between West African countries.

fired upon, and 130 of the 141 hostages taken, it reported.

Meanwhile, about two-thirds of cocaine shipped from South America to Europe transits through West Africa, according to the United Nations' global report on drugs.

"Today, we face serious challenges at sea such as illegal fishing, trafficking of weapons, narcotics, people, and the ongoing threat of piracy," Rear Adm. Heidi Berg, AFRICOM's intelli-

gence director, told participants.

"This illicit activity undermines rule of law, food security and economic development. Our efforts here will help make the region a safer place for maritime commerce."

This year, search-and-rescue operations and advanced medical assistance were added to the exercise, Berg said. And greater emphasis was placed on correctly searching vessels and handling evidence to ensure effective pros-

ecution of criminals, she said.

Five countries — Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Togo, Ghana and Benin — organized mock trials to examine how well the teams followed the law during their raids.

"Obangame Express has grown in scope from a communications exercise to become what it is now — a comprehensive maritime security event that exercises the full spectrum of activities," Berg said.

wyland.scott@stripes.com

Take Command of Your Finances

Our members earn and save more with lower fees, better rates and discounts. Enjoy:

- ➔ checking accounts that earn dividends and offer ATM rebates
- ➔ savings rates that are two to six times higher than national rates*
- ➔ help when you need it from 24/7 stateside member reps

Start improving your financial future and join **TODAY**.

NAVY FEDERAL
Credit Union®

ARMY
MARINE CORPS
NAVY
AIR FORCE
COAST GUARD
VETERANS

For more information, visit
navyfederal.org or stop
by a local branch.

Insured by NCUA. *Rates compared to national rates for similar products with deposits less than \$100,000 as reported by the FDIC on Feb. 11, 2019. © 2019 Navy Federal NCUA 11888 (2-19)

WAR ON TERRORISM

Silver Star recipient gets award upgrade

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

FORT HOOD, Texas — An unexpected phone call in December from the Army tipped off retired Sgt. Daniel Cowart that something was in the works. The caller wanted to confirm his contact information — 1 years after leaving the service.

A recipient of the Silver Star, Cowart brushed it off, assuming someone wanted to send him an invitation to an event. A second phone call later that day from the Pentagon triggered his curiosity. He was told to expect a third call from a senior ranking official in the next day or two — and that it was good news.

The next day, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey called to congratulate Cowart — his Silver Star would soon be upgraded to the Distinguished Service Cross, the Army's second highest award for valor.

"I had no idea my award was under review," said Cowart, who now lives in Santa Fe, Texas, near Houston. "The Distinguished Service Cross is a great honor."

Cowart's award is one of a dozen Silver Star medals announced recently by the Army for upgrade through a review process of post-9/11 valor awards that began in 2016. All military departments have completed their respective reviews, said Air Force Lt. Col. Carla Gleason, Pentagon spokeswoman. However, there are a few Army cases still pending final decision or announcement. Of the Army's 12 awards announced this year, only five names have been released.

The review encompassed about 100 citations of the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross and Air Force Cross and about 1,000 Silver Star recommendations.

It has resulted in 57 upgrades: four Medals of Honor, 16 Distinguished Service Crosses, 12 Navy Crosses, two Air Force Crosses and 23 Silver Stars, Gleason said.

"The Army is currently in the process of scheduling the associated award presentation ceremonies," she said.

When then-Defense Secretary Ash Carter ordered the review, the Pentagon established a definition for merit that allows new use: "The definition will encompass meritorious service while personally exposed to hostile action or while under significant risk of hostile action."



Chris Widell pins the Distinguished Service Cross on retired Sgt. Daniel Cowart during a ceremony Wednesday at Fort Hood, Texas.

So far, three of the Medals of Honor have been presented and the fourth ceremony to honor the late Staff Sgt. Travis Atkins will take place at the White House on March 27. Atkins died June 1, 2007 while deployed near Baghdad, Iraq, with the 10th Mountain Division. He saved the lives of three other soldiers by shielding them from a suicide bomber.

Distinguished Service Cross presentations for the late Maj. Thomas G. Bostick and Capt. Andrew L. Bundermann took place earlier this year. A service for Sgt. Robert K. Debolt will take place March 28 at Fort Riley, Kan., and for the late Staff Sgt. Steven A. Booker on April 5 in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Cowart said Dailey told him during their call that he sat on the review board for Cowart's medal review and the process took about one year.

Cowart's medal was awarded based on

his actions May 13, 2007 in Samarra, Iraq, while serving as gunner with 1st Platoon, Delta Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment — part of the 1st Cavalry Division. At a traffic checkpoint operated by his platoon, two occupants from a vehicle exited a car — one opened fire on the soldiers and the other was wearing a suicide vest.

Cowart tackled the man in the vest, who ultimately detonated the device. While his actions limited damage from the explosion, Cowart's platoon leader 1st Lt. Andrew Bacevich Jr., who was nearby, died as a result of the blast. Cowart lost his left leg.

"After the explosion, it starts to get a little blurry," Cowart said in an Army new release. "I know I didn't see a weapon. I didn't see a suicide vest. I wasn't just going to shoot an unarmed guy. But I knew he was a threat and had to do something. He had a struggle, but then it was all black and I woke up in a hospital in Ballad [Iraq]."

Eventually, Cowart was moved to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, where he would spend the next 15 months. Jonathan Free served in Cowart's platoon and was there that day. Cowart served as Free's sergeant and described him as the type of leader who was actually looking out for his soldiers.

"It was such an intense moment," said Free, who traveled from Colorado to witness the pinning ceremony. In the moments following the attack, "I felt if I wasn't with him, he wasn't going to be OK. That's how I feel today with him getting the award."

Craig Hall, a member of the platoon who was wounded two weeks before Cowart, was there with him at the medical center in San Antonio. Together, the two mourned the loss of their lieutenant and recovered from their wounds.

"(Cowart) is one of the only guys I was able to speak to afterward. We are mentally and spiritually connected. He's a lifelong friend," said Hall, who flew to Texas from Massachusetts for the ceremony because he felt he owed it to Bacevich.

The award upgrade "is a testament to the guy (Cowart). Really is. He's selfless and he cares about everyone," Hall said.

Returning to Fort Hood for the ceremony this week, the 1st Cavalry Division rolled out the red carpet for Cowart and his family. They were given access to view military vehicles up close, tour the museum and stables, and his 14-year-old twin daughters rode horses from the division's Horse Cavalry Detachment.

"I am honored and humbled," Cowart said Wednesday at the podium during his ceremony, standing before hundreds of active-duty servicemembers who filled the bleachers and spilled onto the surrounding grass.

Free and Hall were joined at the ceremony by about a dozen other veterans who served alongside Cowart, who spoke of the joy of seeing his fellow soldiers again, as well as the difficult memories it conjured.

"Remembering also brings sadness. Sadly, one member of the crew isn't here," he said, referring to Bacevich. "I think about those events every day."

thayer.rose@stripes.com
Twitter: @Rose_Lori

Fleischer rebuked after defending Bush on Iraq War anniversary

By ALEX HORTON
The Washington Post

The engines of unarmored Humvees whirled on the Kuwait-Iraq border, ready for a mission to find weapons of mass destruction that would never be accomplished.

Brandon Friedman, then an Army officer helping oversee a company of soldiers, cracked open his journal 17 years ago Wednesday. "After dark we listened to the cruise missiles fly overhead," he wrote on March 20, 2003. U.S. troops swarmed the capital less than two weeks later. Baghdad fell. And then, a realization became widespread among troops tasked with keeping the city from losing its mind.

"It was clear within days there were no weapons of mass destruction," Friedman said Wednesday. "Personally, I felt like we had

been used."

Friedman recalled that feeling on the war's anniversary. So did Ari Fleischer, President George W. Bush's press secretary, who became the public face for justifying the war.

In a 22-tweet monologue Tuesday night, Fleischer sought to knock down a conception that the administration lied its way into one of the 21st century's most significant security blunders.

"It's been on my mind for years. It's a myth that Bush lied. And it's myth with great implications," Fleischer told The Washington Post. "It also can teach young people the wrong lessons. And I wanted to set it straight."

As he had before, Fleischer acknowledged the "major intelligence failure" that led to the mistaken belief that Saddam Hussein possessed the weapons.

But his focus on Bush's image,

rather than the legacy of the war — a years-long insurgency, thousands of dead Iraqis and U.S. troops and fertile grounds for the Islamic State to bloom — touched off anger among some veterans and a former CIA analyst.

"If I were Ari Fleischer, this is not the day I would choose to say something," Friedman said. "I would try to have respect for the dead, knowing the role I played kicking off his war."

Andrew Exum, a former Army Ranger who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, also criticized Fleischer over his focus.

"On one side of history's ledger, we have 4,500 American lives, 100,000+ Iraqi lives, and \$800 billion that could have gone toward schools, health care, and infrastructure at home," Exum, who also served at the Pentagon during the Obama administration, wrote on Twitter.

"On the other side, though, we have some hurt feelings."

Nada Bakos, a former CIA counterterrorism analyst and author of "The Targeter," took issue with Fleischer's suggestion that he and Bush "faithfully and accurately reported" intelligence community assessments. Fleischer said that in the context of WMDs, Bakos said, but he was involved in another matter that also helped push public approval toward invasion: Hussein's connection to al-Qaida.

"We told [the White House and Pentagon] that al-Qaida was not a member of al-Qaida before the invasion," Bakos said, referring to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who only later founded al-Qaida in Iraq the next year.

And yet, the administration leaned on the supposed connection to make a stronger case for war. Then-Secretary of State

Colin Powell used al-Zarqawi's name 21 times in remarks at the United Nations Security Council in February 2003. Fleischer used those remarks to tie the terrorist group to Hussein's threat in a news briefing 13 days before the invasion.

Bakos also took issue with the content of Fleischer's tweets.

"It's disturbing a senior member of a previous administration cannot show how we learn from mistakes. I find it incredibly disturbing in light of today's political environment," she said. "Him playing victim is so off-putting given where he worked."

Fleischer brushed off the thrust of those criticisms, saying his career focused on policy and he privately pursues charitable ways to "honor those who lives were lost" in war. And he has often said that Hussein had no connection to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, he added.

WAR ON TERRORISM

ISIS: Institute for the Study of War says militants are resetting

FROM FRONT PAGE

The U.S. military is still in Afghanistan amid uncertain peace prospects.

The Iraq experience followed a similar path. The U.S. military had seemingly conquered the Sunni insurgency in Iraq by 2011 after eight years of war. American forces departed, only to see sectarian tensions revive and provide an opening for Syria-based ISIS to take over large parts of Iraq in 2014.

As Army Gen. Lloyd Austin, architect of the plan for defeating ISIS in Iraq and Syria, put it in 2015, the majority of Sunnis in Iraq simply refused to fight for their government when ISIS swept across the Euphrates and took control of much of the country's north and west.

"They allowed — and in some cases facilitated — ISIS' push through the country," Austin said. The reason for their complicity, though he didn't say it, was a deep Sunni distrust of Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

President Barack Obama, who had called the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq a mistake, sent small numbers of U.S. military advisers back to Iraq in the summer of 2014, followed by an air campaign. This time a new approach was adopted: train and equip the Iraqis to

do the fighting, rather than do the fighting for them. Thus was born a counter-ISIS strategy that ultimately prevailed in both Iraq and Syria.

The problem now is achieving the political goal of reconciling the rival internal groups in both countries.

Stephen Biddle, a professor of international and public affairs at Columbia University, sees a strong chance that ISIS will remain an insurgent threat in Iraq and Syria with an intensity that is likely to grow.

"If it gets worse, which it probably will, then I suspect that analysts in 2025 looking back on this will see the eviction of ISIS from its last contiguous territory and the associated American celebrations as yet another example of overly narrow, short-sighted reactions to secondary events," Biddle wrote in an email exchange.

Thomas Joscelyn, a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a conservative-leaning research institute, tweeted that the remaining ISIS presence in Iraq and Syria shows that it is not defeated.

"I'm not saying that ISIS is going to reach its peak power again," he wrote. "Hopefully, the loss of its territory has helped discredit (somewhat) the idea of its caliphate. But ISIS still has



AMARQ NEWS AGENCY/AP

This frame grab from video posted online Monday shows ISIS fighters firing their weapons during clashes with the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces fighters in Baghouz, the ISIS group's last pocket of territory in Syria.

resources and a significant footprint — especially in Iraq, but also in Syria."

A new analysis by the Institute for the Study of War says ISIS is re-establishing insurgent networks in historical strongholds in northern Iraq and setting the stage for future attacks on the Iraqi government.

"The U.S. and its partners should not view the current relative security in Baghdad as confirmation of the defeat of ISIS," the Institute's Brandon Wallace wrote in a recent analysis.

Gen. Joseph Votel, who oversees U.S. military operations in the Middle East as commander of Central Command, told Congress earlier this month that extremism

in Iraq and Syria is a "generational problem."

When the U.S. military began its counter-ISIS campaign it focused mainly on Iraq, in part because Baghdad itself seemed in danger. The going was slow, and in May 2015 the whole effort appeared in doubt when Iraqi defenders were routed at Ramadi. The U.S. defense secretary at the time, Ash Carter, questioned the Iraqis' will to fight, but gradually the tide began to turn in their favor.

The Syria campaign also began slowly and was marked by starting setbacks. In September 2015, Austin, the commander of U.S. Central Command, acknowledged during congressional

testimony that despite hopes of putting several thousand U.S.-backed Syrian rebels into battle against ISIS, they had managed only four or five.

"This is a total failure," Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., declared, prematurely.

But the effort gained momentum, and by early 2016 the U.S. had recruited and organized what came to be called the Syrian Democratic Forces, which U.S. special operations troops trained, advised and assisted.

Despite new complications on the battlefield, such as Russia's entry into the conflict, the campaign methodically recaptured ISIS territory and cut off the extremists' lifelines.

Explosions kill at least 6 people as Afghans gather to mark holiday

By AMIR SHAH
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A string of bombs exploded near a Shiite shrine and cemetery in the Afghan capital on Thursday as people gathered to mark Nowruz, the Persian new year, leaving six people dead and as many as 20 wounded, Afghan officials said.

The police's initial investigation indicated that three explosive devices had been remotely detonated, according to Interior Ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing, but a local Islamic State affiliate has repeatedly targeted the country's minority Shiite Muslims. The Sunni militant group considers Shiite Muslims to be apostates deserving of death.

Kabul's Emergency Services director Mohammad Asim said two children were among the wounded in the blasts. The extent of their injuries was not immediately known.

Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani condemned the attack,

calling it a "direct assault on our traditional and cultural values."

Shiite worshippers had gathered at the Karti Sakhi shrine in a mainly Shiite neighborhood of Kabul when the blasts rang out. The tradition at the shrine is to hoist green flags and honor the dead at the cemetery by placing food at the gravesides.

A Shiite cleric, Mir Hussain Shah Naseri, said he had planned to go to the shrine with his children to visit the grave of his wife, who died seven months ago, but because of the attack he stayed home.

Nowruz, usually a festive occasion, was somber following the explosions, he said.

Wary Afghans had been warned by authorities of violence ahead of the Nowruz celebrations.

The holiday, dating back to at least 1700 B.C. and incorporating ancient Zoroastrian traditions, is the most important event in the Iranian calendar and is widely celebrated across the territories of the old Persian empire, from the Middle East to Central Asia.

ACCOMPLISH WHAT OTHERS CAN'T

U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS



MILITARY

Cadet: Family welcomes chance to share military experience

FROM FRONT PAGE

After being welcomed into the academy's Cadet Wing last week, he checked out the airfield and fire department, tested virtual reality equipment and participated in a theater skit, the statement said. Photos also showed him hitting the gym.

Je'Moni is "full of energy and life," his mother Shameeka Ford said, as quoted in the academy's statement. Despite his battle with cancer, he continues to play music.

"He never misses an opportunity to entertain," she said. "If there is an audience, he is going to perform."

Last spring, Just Be Colorado, a local nonprofit for cancer survivors, helped send Je'Moni to New York to see a performance on Broadway in time for his 9th birthday. His visit to the academy came just before his 10th, his mother said.

On Twitter this week, the academy's football team welcomed the school's youngest cadet, saying "we could use a strong player like you" and inviting Je'Moni to visit head coach Troy Calhoun.

Jacob Volin, a senior cadet in the "Cadet for a Day" program, has taken part in 10 events like the Ford family's visit and he said he feels lucky to be a part of the effort.

"A consistent theme for me ... has been the way these families embrace each other and tackle these [illnesses] full force," Volin said. "It's inspiring and fulfilling to be involved with that."

The visit was a chance for the Ford family to share some of the military experience with Je'Moni, several of whose relatives are veterans, including both of his grandfathers.

"We are so blessed to have this opportunity, and to be the parents of this young man, who makes every day an adventure," Shameeka Ford said.

garland.chad@stripes.com
Twitter: @chadgarland



JOSHUA ARMSTRONG/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

The Air Force Academy's Cadet for a Day program, in partnership with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, hosted 9-year-old Je'Moni Ford and his family on March 15. Since 2000, the Cadet for a Day initiative has provided young people facing severe medical challenges with the opportunity to experience life as a cadet.

UConn students develop device that detects injuries

By JULIA BERGMAN
The Day

MANSFIELD, Conn. — Say you're a ship captain and you want to know when one of your sailors is fatigued to the point he or she is at risk of getting injured.

Some University of Connecticut students have an idea.

The team of Devon Thompson, Julia Podsen, Yannis Halkiadakis, Prateek Rana and Kyle-Gabriel de Vera Tan, has developed a device, worn around the ankle, that detects normal and abnormal walking patterns. The goal is to develop an algorithm that can predict from someone's walking patterns if they're going to get injured and what the injury will be.

"The whole idea is, 'Can we keep these people mission-ready? Can we keep them performing optimally on a boat?'" said Kristin Morgan, an assistant professor in UConn's Biomedical Engineering Department.

The sponsor for the project is Electric Boat, which along with the Navy has made a big push to use wearable technology, given its low cost and ease of use, to monitor human performance.

A year and a half ago, UConn and the University of Rhode Island teamed up to create the Naval Science and Technology Program to get students interested in naval projects before they graduate, and to help create a pipeline of workers for the naval industries in the two states. More than 100 students have been involved in the program since it started.

Graduating engineering majors at both

universities have to complete a senior project — that amounts to about 500 projects total between both universities. This year, 17 of the projects have naval relevance. The goal is to increase that number next year, and include some of the smaller suppliers of the naval industry in both states.

The wearable device project at UConn is just one example of what the students have been working on. As part of the project, the students have observed different subjects — some who are healthy, others who have lower-extremity injuries — going through the same walking protocol on a split-belt treadmill, which allows them to move their feet at different speeds. That destabilizes the subjects to see if they can re-stabilize. They also observed them at asymmetrical speeds.

The subjects wear the sensors around each of their ankles. The sensors have a small microphone attached, which capture the vibrations of their footsteps, which are then used to differentiate between abnormal and normal walking patterns.

The sensors also have a Bluetooth device attached, allowing them to collect the data in real time, which is plotted on a graph on a computer. The next step is to put the data into an algorithm that can be used as an early diagnostic tool to know if someone is susceptible to injury.

The students said there's a myriad of uses for the tool such as sports rehabilitation. If you can predict when someone is going to get injured, and the type of injury, you could give them exercises for example to help prevent that from happening.



SARAH GORDON, THE DAY/AP

Yannis Halkiadakis, right, is fit with an ankle monitor with help from teammates Devon Thompson, Kyle-Gabriel Tan and Prateek Rana before walking on a treadmill at the Sports Optimization and Rehabilitation Labs at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, Conn., last week.

MILITARY

Fort Benning Ranger killed in parachute training in Ariz.

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — An Army Ranger from New York was killed during a free-fall parachute training jump last week in Arizona, the Army announced Thursday.

Sgt. 1st Class Ethan Carpenter was killed March 15 during the routine training exercise, according to Army Special Operations Command. Carpenter was a reconnaissance specialist assigned to the elite 75th Ranger Regiment's special troops battalion at Fort Benning in Georgia.

Carpenter, 30, of Trumansburg, N.Y., was a veteran of eight combat deployments — seven in Afghanistan and one in Iraq — since he enlisted in the Army in August 2007, according to the service. He initially served with the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Hunter



Carpenter

Army Airfield in Savannah, Ga. He served there as an assistant machine gunner, a team leader and a squad leader before moving to Fort Benning in June 2017.

The Army declined to provide details about what led to Carpenter's death during the jump or where in Arizona it occurred. Military free-fall parachute jumps are conducted from high altitudes, designed to insert troops without enemy forces detecting an aircraft. They can include jumps in which troops open their parachutes at either high or low altitudes.

Carpenter's decorations, which included the Military Freefall Parachutist Badge and the Senior Parachutists Badge, indicate he was an expert parachutist who would have completed dozens of jumps similar to the one in which he was killed.

Carpenter was also a recipient of the Purple Heart for injuries sustained in combat. His other awards included the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Ranger Tab and two Joint Service Commendation Medals.

His battalion commander described Carpenter as an exem-

plary Ranger and leader.

"He did the toughest jobs well and was the consummate team member when it counted the most, both in garrison training and in deployed combat," Col. Joseph Ewers, commander of the Ranger Regiment's special troops battalion, said in a statement. "He represented our nation's best, and we'll miss him dearly."

Carpenter is survived by his wife and daughter, according to the Army.

dickstein.corey@stripes.com
writer: @CDicksteinDC

Federal watchdog: VA leadership to blame for GI Bill payment issues

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A lack of accountable leadership was to blame for errors that led to thousands of veterans who receive GI Bill benefits getting late or incorrect payments last year, a federal watchdog agency said.

The Department of Veterans Affairs didn't have a designated official overseeing the project to implement portions of the new Forever GI Bill, VA Inspector General Michael Missal wrote in a report released Wednesday. The leadership gaps resulted

in "unclear communication," as well as "inadequately defined expectations, roles and responsibilities," the report reads.

The Forever GI Bill, approved by Congress in 2017, is a major expansion of veterans' education benefits. When officials went to make the necessary changes to its information technology systems last fall, they faced critical errors that resulted in late and incorrect monthly living stipends for student veterans.

In some cases, the delays left veterans scrambling to pay their rent and other bills.

The problems were the subject of a

House hearing last year, and 13 lawmakers wrote Missal requesting a probe into what led to the failures.

"The IG report confirms what we all suspected: a clear failure in leadership to properly oversee administration of GI benefits," said Rep. Ann Kuster, D-N.H., who sat on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs during the last Congress. "This is, unfortunately, an all too familiar problem at the VA, and we must ensure senior leadership act proactively and with the urgency necessary to effectively support our men and women who have served."

In November 2018, VA Secretary Robert

Wilkie named Paul Lawrence, VA undersecretary for benefits, as the official accountable for implementing the Forever GI Bill.

After an initial deadline of August 2018, the implementation efforts are estimated to be complete by Dec. 1, 2019, the VA said. The agency said it has made "solid progress" so far, including sending retroactive payments to all student veterans who faced delays last year. But the VA hasn't provided an accounting of the total amount paid, nor the number of veterans affected.

Wentling.nikki@stripes.com
Twitter: @nikkiwentling

Welcome to the Neighborhood.

You rely on your military community when you're far from home.

We get that.



USE OUR COMMUNITY SITES TO CONNECT AND SHARE DURING YOUR TIME OVERSEAS.

WITH BASE INFORMATION, TRAVEL TIPS, RESTAURANT REVIEWS AND EVEN THE SCORE OF YOUR CHILD'S HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL GAME, WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED.

VISIT ONE OF OUR
COMMUNITY SITES TODAY!

STARS & STRIPES OKINAWA
STARS & STRIPES JAPAN
STARS & STRIPES GUAM
STARS & STRIPES EUROPE

STARS & STRIPES OKINAWA
STARS & STRIPES JAPAN
STARS & STRIPES GUAM
STARS & STRIPES EUROPE

Stay connected and hey,
welcome to the neighborhood.

NATION

Trump should see Mueller report

By JILL COLVIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said he believes special counsel Robert Mueller's report should be released to the public, even as he disparaged its very existence as "ridiculous."

"Let's come out, let people see it," Trump told reporters as he left the White House on Wednesday for a trip to Ohio. "Let's see whether or not it's legit."

Mueller is expected to present a report to the Justice Department any day now outlining the findings of his nearly two-year investigation into Russian election meddling, possible collusion with Trump campaign officials and possible obstruction of justice by Trump.

Mueller is required to produce a confidential report that at a minimum explains decisions about who was and was not prosecuted.

Attorney General William Barr is then expected to produce his own report for Congress and has said he wants to make public as much of Mueller's findings as he can under the law.

Trump said he was personally looking forward to reading the findings, even as he scorned the fact that Mueller was empowered to write the report in the first place.

"I just won one of the greatest elections of all time in the history of this country ... And now I see somebody writing a report that never got a vote?" Trump said. "It's called the Mueller report. So explain that because my voters

don't get it. And I don't get it."

Trump went on to mischaracterize the effort, saying "it's sort of interesting that a man out of the blue just writes a report."

The House voted unanimously last week for a resolution calling for any report in Mueller's investigation to be made public.

It was a symbolic action designed to pressure Barr into releasing as much information as possible.

'Let it come out, let people see it.'

President Donald Trump

Trump and his outside attorneys have worked for months now to undermine Mueller and cast doubt on his eventual findings.

Trump continued that effort Wednesday, calling Mueller "conflicted" and criticizing the lawyers who have worked on the case.

Though Mueller's office has said nothing publicly about the timing of a report, several prosecutors detailed to Mueller's team have left in recent months, suggesting the investigation is winding down.

Trump, for his part, said he had no idea when the report would be released, but maintained his innocence, saying there was "no collusion" and "no obstruction. There was no nothing."

"With all of that being said," he added, "I look forward to seeing the report."



President Donald Trump pumps his fists as he arrives to deliver remarks at the Lima Army Tank Plant on Wednesday in Lima, Ohio.

EVAN VUCCI/AP

Trump says Ohio workers 'better love me,' reignites McCain feud

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
AND ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

LIMA, Ohio — President Donald Trump on Wednesday brought his re-election campaign to Ohio — a state essential to his 2020 strategy — touring a military tank plant and telling many of its cheering workers: "You better love me. I kept this place open."

Trump also used the visit to criticize John McCain, saying the late senator "didn't get the job done for our great vets." He complained that McCain's family didn't thank him for giving the senator "the kind of funeral that he wanted." McCain died last year of brain cancer.

Trump's visit to Ohio was his first since last year's midterm election campaign when the state was a rare bright spot for Republicans in the upper Midwest. But with Trump's path to another four years in the White House relying on a victory here, his nascent campaign is mindful of warning signs that Ohio can hardly be taken for granted in 2020.

Perhaps no state has better

illustrated the re-aligning effects of Trump's candidacy and presidency than Ohio, where traditionally Democratic-leaning working-class voters have swung heavily toward the GOP, and moderate Republicans in populous suburban counties have shifted away from Trump. It's for that reason, administration officials said, that Trump keeps returning to Ohio — this week's visit marks his 10th to the state since taking office.

The visit is part of a 2020 Trump strategy to appear in battleground states in his official White House capacity as much as possible this year, said a person with knowledge of the plans who was not authorized to speak publicly. Trump is expected to make similar trips throughout the year as he seeks to boost enthusiasm to counter an energized Democratic base. It's a strategy employed by previous presidents, both to leverage the prestige of office for political purposes and to offset the steep costs of presidential campaign travel with corresponding taxpayer-funded events.

Trump visited the Lima Army Tank Plant, which had been at risk for closure but is now benefiting from his administration's investments in defense spending. He also attended a re-election campaign fundraiser in Canton.

In this heavy manufacturing state, Trump cited his efforts to negotiate new trade agreements and enact tariffs to protect steel manufacturers. He described how his administration has confronted China over its trading practices and the "stealing" of American jobs and ideas.

Trump visited days after he railed against the closure of a General Motors plant in Lordstown, a significant contributor to the economy in the eastern part of the state.

Trump said GM should re-open the plant or sell it to somebody who wants it. "Get it open now, don't wait," he said Wednesday.

Allies acknowledge he may be limited in what he can accomplish for the Lordstown plant, but said his vocal advocacy signaled to his supporters in the area that he is fighting on their behalf.

Trump says US recognizes Israeli control of Golan Heights

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — President Donald Trump said Thursday that it's time for the United States to recognize Israel's control over the disputed Golan Heights, an announcement that signals a shift in U.S. policy and comes ahead of the Israeli prime minister's planned visit next week to the White House.

The administration has been considering recognizing Israel's sovereignty over the Golan, which Israel captured from Syria in 1967. Last week, in its annual human rights report, the State Department dropped the phrase "Israeli-occupied" from the Golan Heights section, instead calling it "Israeli-controlled."

"After 52 years it is time for

the United States to fully recognize Israel's Sovereignty over the Golan Heights, which is of critical strategic and security importance to the State of Israel and Regional Stability!" Trump tweeted.

Minutes later, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu tweeted his appreciation. "At a time when Iran seeks to use Syria as a platform to destroy Israel, President Trump boldly recognizes Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights. Thank you President Trump!"

In addition to its policies toward the Palestinians, the U.S. has taken a hard line toward Iran, much to Netanyahu's delight.

Trump's announcement came as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is in Jerusalem, lauding warm ties with Israel and promising to

step up pressure on Iran. Pompeo's words gave a public boost to the Israeli leader at the height of a tight re-election campaign. Netanyahu is to be in Washington for two days next week — two weeks before Israel's April 19 ballot.

Standing together in Jerusalem on Thursday, neither Netanyahu nor Pompeo mentioned the heated Israel election campaign. But Netanyahu, facing a tough challenge from a popular former military chief and reeling from a series of corruption allegations, has repeatedly sought to focus attention on his foreign-policy record and strong ties with Trump.

Pompeo has said his trip has nothing to do with politics.

Netanyahu thanked Pompeo for the Trump administration's strong stance against Iran, which

Israel regards as an existential threat. Netanyahu has accused Iran of attempting to set up a terrorist network to target Israel from the Golan Heights, using the incident to repeat his goal of international recognition for Israel's claim on the area.

"You could imagine what would have happened if Israel were not in the Golan," he said. "You would have Iran on the shores of the Sea of Galilee."

Pompeo paid a solemn visit Thursday to Jerusalem's Western Wall along with Netanyahu in an apparent sign of support for Israel's control of the contested city.

Pompeo is the highest-ranking American official to tour the holy site with any Israeli leader. His visit was likely to further infuriate the Palestinians, who already

have severed ties with the U.S. over its Jerusalem policies.

Pompeo and Netanyahu prayed at the wall before depositing written prayers in its crevices and then touring nearby tunnels and a synagogue. Neither made any public comment at the site.

Israel captured east Jerusalem and the Old City in the 1967 Mid-east war, and for decades, U.S. officials refrained from visiting the Western Wall with Israeli leaders to avoid the appearance of recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the city's most sensitive holy sites. But the Trump administration has upended the policy, moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem last year after recognizing the city as Israel's capital. Israel claims all of Jerusalem as its eternal and indivisible capital.

NATION

2020 Dems want to abolish Electoral College

By **ANASIAS RICCARDI**

Associated Press

The Green New Deal and “Medicare for All” are old news. The hottest position in the Democratic presidential field this week is abolishing the Electoral College.

Elizabeth Warren kicked things off at a CNN town hall Monday night when the Massachusetts senator drew enthusiastic applause by saying: “Every vote matters and the way we can make that happen is that we can have national voting, and that means get rid of the Electoral College.”

The next day, former Texas

Rep. Beto O'Rourke said there was “a lot of wisdom” in abolishing the Electoral College. California Sen. Kamala Harris told late night host Jimmy Kimmel on Tuesday night that she’s “open to the discussion.” Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana, tweeted a clip of him saying the Electoral College “has got to go.”

It’s the latest push by White House hopefuls to embrace a procedural tactic to rally the Democratic base, following similar calls to scrap the filibuster and increase the size of the Supreme Court. The 2020 candidates are tapping into Democratic anger after Donald Trump became

the second Republican in five presidential elections to win the presidency through the Electoral College while losing the popular vote.

The Electoral College, a group that comes together every four years to technically elect the president, is enshrined in the Constitution and won’t be easy to eliminate. O'Rourke suggested a constitutional amendment to award the presidency to the winner of the popular vote.

Several Democratic-controlled states are pushing for a national popular vote. But rather than pass a constitutional amendment,

these legislatures are joining the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, a group of states that pledge to give their electoral votes to the winner of the national popular vote.

The compact only goes into effect when it includes states representing 270 electoral votes, the majority needed to win the White House. Critics say the Electoral College focuses attention on a handful of swing states at the expense of candidates campaigning throughout the country.

But defenders say the current system almost always lines up with the popular vote and is part

of the way the country’s founders wanted to check popular passions and encourages attention to small states that may otherwise get passed over.

Some Democrats agree.

Andrew Yang, an entrepreneur running for the party’s presidential nomination, tweeted: “The problem with deciding Presidential elections via popular vote is that candidates would naturally campaign in urban areas with big media markets and their policies would follow suit. Better to have proportional electoral college votes in each state so you campaign everywhere.”

New asylum policy leads to confusion

By **ELLIOT SPAGAT**

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Scheduling glitches led an immigration judge to deny the Trump administration’s request to order four Central American migrants deported because they failed to show for initial hearings Wednesday in the U.S., while being forced to wait in Mexico.

The judge’s refusal was a setback for the administration’s highly touted initiative to make asylum seekers wait in Mexico while their cases wind through U.S. immigration courts.

One migrant came to court with a notice to appear on Saturday, March 30 and said he later learned that he was supposed to show up Wednesday. He reported in the morning to U.S. authorities at the main crossing between San Diego and Tijuana.

“I almost didn’t make it because I had two dates,” he said. Similar snafus marred the first hearings last week when migrants who were initially told to show up Tuesday had their dates bumped up several days.

Judge Scott Simpson told ad-

ministration lawyers to file a brief by April 10 that explains how it can assure migrants are properly notified of appointments. The judge postponed initial appearances for the four no-shows to April 22, which raised more questions about how they would learn about the new date.

Government documents had no street address for the four men in Tijuana and indicated that correspondence was to be sent to U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Simpson asked how the administration would alert them.

“I don’t have a response to that,” said Robert Wities, an attorney for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

At least two others were given notices to appear Tuesday but, when they showed up at the border, were told by U.S. authorities that they were not on the schedule that day. Their attorneys quickly got new dates for Wednesday but Mexico refused to take them back, forcing them to stay overnight in U.S. custody.

The federal case two days before a snafu came in San Francisco hears oral arguments to halt enforcement of the “Migra-



Eric Gay/AP

William Josue Gonzales Garcia, 2, who was traveling with his parents, waits with other families who crossed the nearby U.S.-Mexico border near McAllen, Texas on March 14.

tion Protection Protocols” policy in a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union, Southern Poverty Law Center and Center for Gender & Refugee Studies.

The policy shift, which followed months of high-level talks between the U.S. and Mexico, was launched in San Diego on Jan. 29 amid growing numbers of asylum-seeking families from

Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. Mexicans and children traveling alone are exempt.

Families are typically released in the U.S. with notices to appear in court and stay until their cases are resolved, which can take years. The new policy aims to change that by making people wait in Mexico, though it is off to a modest start with 240 migrants

being sent back to Tijuana from San Diego in the first six weeks. U.S. officials say they plan to sharply expand the policy across the entire border.

U.S. officials call the new policy an unprecedented effort that aims to discourage weak asylum claims and reduce a court backlog of more than 800,000 cases.

Police say immigrant suspect killed 4 in Nevada for drugs

By **SCOTT SONNER**

Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — A detective says a Salvadoran immigrant charged with four Nevada murders told police he robbed and killed his elderly victims during a 10-day rampage in January because he needed money to buy methamphetamine.

The detective told the grand jury, which indicted Wilber Ernesto Martinez-Guzman in Reno last week, the 20-year-old who is living in the U.S. illegally broke into tears and repeatedly called himself an “idiot” before confessing to the murders during an interrogation hours after his arrest in Carson City on Jan. 19.

According to the grand jury transcript obtained by The Associated Press, Washoe

County Sheriff’s Detective Stefanie Brady testified March 13 that Martinez-Guzman initially denied any wrongdoing and was smiling and giggling through the questioning.

But after she confronted him with several contradictions in his story during a nearly three-hour interrogation, he said through a Spanish interpreter he “had done something that’s unforgivable.”

She says he told her he shot the victims “because of the drugs.”

“He said he needed the money for the

meth and it was the meth,” Brady testified, according to the 268-page transcript filed late Tuesday in Washoe District Court.

The grand jury indicted Martinez-Guzman last week on four counts of murder with the use of a deadly weapon, three counts of burglary while in possession of a firearm and one count each of burglary, burglary while gaining possession of a firearm and possession of a stolen firearm.

A not guilty plea was entered on his behalf during an arraignment Tuesday. His trial isn’t scheduled to begin until April 2020.

District Attorneys Chris Hicks of Washoe County and Mark Jackson of Douglas County announced last week they are seeking the death penalty but that Martinez-

Guzman’s immigration status had nothing to do with that decision.

The four slaying victims include Gerald David, 81, and his 80-year-old wife, Sharon David, a prominent Reno Rodeo Association couple who had employed Martinez-Guzman as a landscaper last summer at their house where they were found dead Jan. 16.

Police say they were shot with a .22-caliber handgun that Martinez-Guzman stole from them earlier.

Court documents allege that Martinez-Guzman’s DNA was found on the same gun that was also used to kill Connie Koonitz and Sophia Renken in their homes in Gardnerville south of Carson City.



Guzman

NATION

Floods leave towns without fresh water

By DAVID PITT
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — As some communities along the Missouri River start to shift their focus to flood recovery after a late-winter storm, residents in two Iowa cities are stuck in crisis mode after their treatment plants shut down and left them in need of fresh water.

Tanker trucks from the Iowa National Guard and a private company are hauling water into Hamburg and Glenwood, said Lucinda Parker, a spokeswoman with Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Many evacuated from flooded areas in the southwestern part of the state are staying in shelters or with family and friends in the wake of the flooding and water struggles it has caused.

"The water is starting to go down in communities and they're looking at how they're going to start their recovery," Parker said Wednesday.

Trucks are hauling about 300,000 gallons per day to Glenwood's water treatment plant from the neighboring cities of Red Oak and Shenandoah, according to the state Department of Natural Resources. Grocery store chains Vee-Vee and Fareway also have provided truckloads of bottled water.

Mike Wells, superintendent of the Hamburg Community School District, said one of the biggest concerns about having no fresh water is staying clean. The school district has coordinated providing buses for residents to ride 25 miles to Shenandoah or 10 miles to Sidney to shower. A local ministerial society has been picking up residents' laundry at the school district, taking it to Shenandoah to wash it, and returning it.

"These are the best people. There's no despair. There's no giving up," Wells said.

He said school would resume Thursday because it's important for children to get back into their routine. He said the first half of the school day will be regular classes, but in the afternoon students will help collect laundry, deliver water, check on older residents and help provide food to those who need meals.

"This is a great opportunity to learn real life," Wells said.

The surging waters have damaged hundreds of homes in the Midwest and been blamed for at least three deaths — two in Nebraska and one in Iowa. The flooding led to trains being halted in Missouri, creating transportation problems for both people and products. It also has taken a heavy toll on agriculture, inundating tens

of thousands of acres, threatening stockpiled grain and killing livestock.

Scientists say climate change is responsible for more intense and more frequent extreme weather such as storms, floods, droughts and fires, but without extensive study, they cannot directly link a single weather event to the changing climate.

Flooding hit Hamburg and Glenwood, which combined have about 6,000 residents, after the storm. Hamburg evacuated over the weekend. So did a portion of Mills County near Glenwood. Officials said the communities' water supplies became compromised.

Water quality suffers during flooding even for areas not directly affected by floodwater. In Des Moines — which gets its water from two rivers that are flooding, though not as much as the Missouri River — levels of ammonia and other contaminants rise during floods. That may require increased use of chlorine to disinfect the water "and a careful balancing act not to overreact," said Water Works CEO Bill Stowe.

The water utility that serves about 500,000 central Iowa customers also at times deals with high levels of nitrate from farm fertilizer runoff, but the volume of water has diluted that impact and isn't currently a concern, Stowe said.

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds said she would be asking President Donald Trump for an expedited disaster declaration. She said officials in her state were gathering damage estimates first.

National Weather Service hydrologist Kevin Low said during a telephone briefing Wednesday that "major and perhaps historic" flooding is possible later this month at some spots on the Big Sioux and James rivers in South Dakota and northwestern Iowa.

Parker, the state Homeland Security and Emergency Management spokeswoman, said even though southwestern Iowa was hit hardest in the state during this round of flooding, there are concerns of more widespread flooding ahead.

"We're definitely not out of the woods," she said, before later adding, "So take this opportunity to get prepared."

'These are the best people. There's no despair. There's no giving up.'

Mike Wells
superintendent
of Hamburg
Community School
District



CHRIS MACHIAN, OMAHA WORLD-HERALD/AP

Bob the cat gets a boat ride after being rescued by Treyton Gubser and Daniel Gubser on Wednesday in Hamburg, Iowa.

Offutt Air Force Base cancels air show due to heavy flooding

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

Military leaders and cleanup crews were still waiting Wednesday for water to recede at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska where the airfield and in several buildings on the southeastern portion of the base remain flooded after heavy rain and historic levels of melting snow poured into regional rivers.

"We are still in recovery mode," said Ryan Hansen, spokesman for the 55th Wing, which oversees operations of the base located just west of the Missouri River.

Flooding began Friday at Offutt, as well as across Nebraska and other states along the Missouri River. Hundreds of homes have been evacuated and many farms impacted. Areas south and also along the Mississippi River are bracing for possible flood waters.

At least 17 high-water records have been set across Nebraska, where 660 people are in evacuation shelters and the National Guard and State Patrol have had to rescue more than 175 people, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency said in a statement, reported The Associated Press.

The water at Offutt receded enough to allow the base to reopen a previously closed access gate and all personnel returned to work Tuesday, Hansen said. About 10,000 personnel reported to the base each day, and about 6,500 are active-duty servicemembers.

Flood waters are expected to continue to recede through the week and Hansen said base officials plan to have environmental crews along with engineers and the fire department determine building safety and

survey damage. About 30 buildings flooded and at the water's peak, one-third of the base was covered.

Preventive measures to mitigate fuels leaks at the airfield appeared to be successful, as no leaks or line breaks have been detected, according to a news release posted to Offutt's Facebook page.

"After reviewing aerial photos of the areas of the installation affected by flooding, base officials identified a sheen on top of the flood water near the fuel storage area. More than 3,700 feet of boom was deployed to ensure any possible fuel leak was contained," the release stated. "Closer examination, by boat, at the site, leads base officials to suspect the sheen is actually caused by residual fuel from submerged equipment. Again, there is no evidence of a ruptured tank or a fuel line leak."

One of the base's older storage tanks collapsed in the water, but it was empty and no longer in service, the release stated.

"We are continuing to monitor the area with support from members of the [Environmental Protection Agency] Region 7 emergency response team," said Col. Michael Manion, 55th Wing commander. "There is no threat to personnel at this time and we are committed to ensuring compliance with all environmental procedures moving forward."

Officials continue to test the base's drinking water and it remains safe to drink, the release stated.

Camp Ashland, a National Guard training site about 25 miles west of Offutt on the Platte River, was completely underwater earlier this week and remains inaccessible.

Thayer.rose@stripes.com
Twitter: @Rose_Lori

Forecasters: 'Potentially historic' flooding threatens Southern states

By JEFF MARTIN
Associated Press

Scientists are warning that historic flooding could soon deluge parts of several Southern states along the lower Mississippi River, where floodwaters could persist for several weeks.

The flood threat in the South will be discussed Thursday when the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration releases

its 2019 spring outlook. Experts plan a briefing on their flood forecast at the National Water Center in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Thursday's report is aimed at helping emergency managers and other safety officials to prepare for flooding.

Flooding in Southern states this spring will be "potentially historic," NOAA said in an advisory.

Rapidly melting snow in the

upper Midwest is contributing to flooding that will eventually make its way downstream to the Gulf Coast, forecasters have said.

The expected surge of water from the north is unwelcome news in parts of Mississippi. In the western part of that state, the Mississippi River is already swollen and has been flooding some communities unprotected by levees since last month.

One Mississippi region protected by levees is also flooding. That's because smaller rivers can't drain into the Mississippi River as normal because a floodgate that protects the region from even worse flooding by the big river has been closed since Feb. 15.

Around Rolling Fork, Mississippi, townspeople first noticed water rising from swamps near

the Mississippi River in late February. The water eventually invaded some homes in that community, about 40 miles north of Vicksburg.

Major flooding is already occurring this week on the Mississippi River near several Southern cities including Arkansas City, Arkansas; Natchez, Mississippi; and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, according to river gauges and data from NOAA.

NATION

Benzene levels up near doused fire at chemicals site

By JUAN A. LOZANO
AND DAVID WARREN
Associated Press

HOUSTON — National Guard troops have been called in and residents were told to stay inside after elevated levels of benzene were detected early Thursday near a Houston-area petrochemicals storage facility that caught fire this week.

Harris County officials said the Guard and hazardous materials teams have established perimeters around the Intercontinental Terminals Co. in Deer Park, which is about 15 miles southeast of Houston.

The Texas Environmental Protection Agency said Wednesday that benzene levels near the facility didn't pose a health concern. But authorities issued a shelter-in-place order Thursday following "reports of action levels of benzene or other volatile organic compounds" within Deer Park, according to the city.

Several school districts also

canceled classes for the day, citing "unfavorable air quality conditions."

The fire started Sunday, sending a huge, dark plume into the air for several days before crews extinguished the blaze on Wednesday. The fire spread to storage tanks holding components of gasoline and materials used in nail polish remover, glues and paint thinner.

Environmental groups said residents who live near the facility have experienced various symptoms, including headaches, nausea and nose bleeds. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, long-term exposure to the highly flammable chemical causes harmful effects on the blood, including bone marrow.

The state Environmental Protection Agency conducted air quality tests throughout the Houston area, both on the ground and from a small airplane, and "measured no levels of hazardous



BRETT COOMER, HOUSTON CHRONICLE/via AP

Emergency crews continue to douse what's left of the petrochemical tank fire at Intercontinental Terminals Co. on Wednesday in Deer Park, Texas. Fire crews extinguished the blaze earlier Wednesday, almost four days after it started. Elevated levels of benzene were detected early Thursday near the site.

concentrations," agency official Adam Adams said Wednesday.

But some residents who live near the storage facility said they didn't have confidence in the air quality test results.

"Everything has been wrapped up in this nice perfect bow in saying that there were no problems. Every air quality was perfect. Every wind was perfect blowing it away. And if everything was so perfect, why did it happen?" long-

time Deer Park resident Terri Garcia said.

Bryan Parras, an organizer in Houston with the Sierra Club, said his environmental group had concerns not just about the air quality, but about potential impacts to the environment and the fishing industry if chemicals from the storage facility or foam used to fight the fire leaked into the Houston Ship Channel, which leads to the Gulf of Mexico.

"This issue isn't over just because the fire is out. We want systems in place that will protect our communities," Parras said.

The EPA and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality said Wednesday that they were waiting for test results of water samples to determine any potential impacts from the foam used to fight the fire on waterways next to the storage facility, including the Houston Ship Channel.

5 suspects at NM compound face terrorism plot charges

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Five extended family members who lived at a ramshackle New Mexico compound where a 3-year-old boy was found dead last year are due in federal court Thursday to face new charges that they plotted attacks on U.S. law enforcement and members of the military.

A federal grand jury last week indicted the five on charges including conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists between late 2017 and August 2018. Authorities said the group traveled from Georgia to New Mexico and lived on a remote property, where they built a makeshift settlement consisting of a camping trailer wedged into the desert and shielded by stacked tires.

The suspects have been in custody since their compound was raided in August, when authorities said they found 11 hungry children living in filth, guns and ammunition, a food range and the remains of the young boy, Abdul-Ghani Wahhaj. They were looking for the boy at the request of his mother in Georgia when they found the compound.

The boy was the son of Siraj Ibn Wahhaj, one of the five adults living at the compound, and had suffered from a medical condition that caused seizures, authorities said. He and Jany Leveille, whom Wahhaj considers his wife, had held hours-long prayer rituals over the boy in the days leading to his death, but denied him medication because Leveille believed it suppressed Muslim beliefs, authorities said.

She also believed the boy would be res-



AP

Defendants, from left, Jany Leveille, Lucas Morton, Siraj Ibn Wahhaj and Subbannah Wahhaj, former residents of a New Mexico compound where authorities found a 3-year-old boy dead, are being arraigned Thursday on new charges.

urrected as Jesus and give instructions on how to get rid of corrupt institutions that involve teachers, law enforcement and banks, an FBI agent testified in court last year.

Authorities also have accused Wahhaj and others of transporting weapons across state lines, and training children at a firing range on the property to carry out shootings and other attacks that never occurred.

The suspects' attorneys have disputed the allegations, saying they are based on the uncorroborated statements of children.

They plan to plead not guilty at their arraignment, the attorneys said.

All the suspects, except Wahhaj, also have been charged with participating in the kidnapping of his son.

Vet, citing PTSD, gets 10 years for bombing car in parking spat

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A man who joined the Marines two days after the Sept. 11 attacks was sentenced Wednesday to a decade in prison after blaming post-traumatic stress disorder for car bombing his neighbor after a parking dispute.

Despite a fireball and an explosion powerful enough to buckle the car's doors, the victim miraculously escaped injury when the bomb was detonated as he drove down a Bronx street in 2016.

U.S. District Judge Paul A. Engelmayer said he would have sentenced Richard Laugel to 20 years in prison if not for his military heroism, which included two stints in Iraq.

"I want to thank you for your service to your country," Engelmayer said. "You have been a hero, and you have it in yourself to be that way again."

But the judge also said PTSD does not excuse Laugel's crime and he was "incredibly fortunate no one was hurt" when he tried to settle an ongoing feud with a neighbor who had quarreled with him over a parking spot.

"It's a rare person who tries to blow up their adversary's car with a pipe bomb," Engelmayer said.

Prosecutors said the March 2, 2016, attack came after Laugel put a pipe bomb in the rear tire well of his Bronx neighbor's car. They said he followed the car in his own vehicle a few blocks before activating the bomb remotely. The loud explosion created a fireball that blew out the car's air bags and buckled the car doors, though it failed to ignite the gas tank. An FBI analysis showed the bomb was loaded

with nails.

Arrested on state arson and attempted murder charges in March 2016, Laugel remained incarcerated until February 2018. A May 2018 narcotics raid on his residence revealed he was manufacturing firearms and silencers, prosecutors said.

In court papers, attorney Troy A. Smith said his client suffered from post-traumatic stress. He described one instance in which Laugel heard fireworks outside his then-California residence and ran outside in his underwear with his licensed firearm, "completely under the assumption he was in Iraq and defending himself and his fellow [Marines] from harm."

"He was also experiencing nightmares containing images of combat and would wake up screaming and drenched in sweat," Smith wrote.

Engelmayer said it was "blatantly obvious" Laugel suffers from PTSD.

He read a letter in which Laugel said: "I constantly suffered from survivor's guilt."

The judge also cited a letter from Laugel's former platoon sergeant, retired Sgt. Maj. M. Dallas Miller, saying Laugel provided security during the initial invasion of Iraq for former Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis who led a Marine division at the time. Miller said Laugel helped train, plan and execute high-risk missions in Fallujah, Iraq, in 2005.

He said it is easy for people to write someone off with PTSD.

"What we should be doing is wrapping our arms around him, help him address his issues that led him to make a poor decision, and help him get back on track," Miller said.

NATION

Superfans remain steadfast despite scandals

By LAVANYA RAMANATHAN
The Washington Post

Before “Leaving Neverland” had even aired on HBO early this month, dozens of London’s iconic double-decker buses bore an ominous message from Michael Jackson’s fans.

“Facts don’t lie,” they read, accompanied by an outsize photo of the late King of Pop’s face. “People do.”

The tab for the ads was picked up by the MJInnocent campaign, run by four Jackson superfans who had gotten to know one another over years trailing the pop star. They had joined together to discredit the two men who, in the documentary, allege that the pop singer sexually abused them for years while they were children.

Anika Kotecha is one of those fans. A 34-year-old London lawyer and mother of two, she attended Jackson’s 2005 abuse trial in California while in college, met the pop star and even visited his home.

“I think it’s a huge misconception that Michael Jackson fans are crazy or a reflection of Wacko Jacko,” she said in a phone interview. “But, actually, that’s not the case at all.”

After “Leaving Neverland” aired, Oprah Winfrey praised the documentary, radio stations pulled Jackson’s songs from the air, and “The Simpsons” announced it would bury an episode that featured Jackson’s voice. Louis Vuitton, which had, in a bit of unfortunate timing, just showed a fall collection inspired by Jackson — replete with glittering gloves and T-shirts emblazoned with his iconic dance moves — last week shelved the designs.

But Kotecha and legions of other fans are steadfast. “Ironically, for someone whose entire career was based on his voice, he no longer has a voice,” she added. “And we are that for him at the moment.”

For those less invested in celebrity culture, superfans’ public and strenuous defense of accused stars can be baffling, even distasteful. The #MeToo movement, which unearthed numerous stories of sexual misconduct, has made many people more inclined to believe accusers.

But the Twitter warriors and the courtroom protesters lay bare the dramatically transforming relationship between celebrity and fan. And they highlight growing distrust in the fairness of the criminal-justice system.

Last week, as “Empire” actor Jussie Smollett appeared in a Chicago courtroom, a handful of defenders perched outside in the blustery March weather to shout “Justice for Jussie.” The actor entered a not-guilty plea to charges of lying to authorities about an alleged hate crime attack that police say Smollett orchestrated himself.

When news of R&B singer R. Kelly’s indictment on 10 counts of felony sex abuse in a case involv-



MARTIN MEISSNER/AP

A visitor looks at the painting “Archangel Michael: And no message could have been any clearer” from U.S. artist David LaChapelle at a preview of the exhibition “Michael Jackson: On The Wall” at the Bundeskunsthalle museum in Bonn, Germany, on Thursday.



MARTIN MEISSNER/AP

The sculpture “Michael Jackson and Bubbles” from U.S. artist Paul McCarthy is presented at a preview of the Bundeskunsthalle museum exhibition.

ing four young victims ripped across the country last month, the hashtag #FreeKelly began trending on Twitter. Fans had been showing support outside Kelly’s various court appearances for years.

Kristian Pisciotta, 24, a waitress in New York’s Dutchess County, watched “Surviving R. Kelly,” the six-part Lifetime docuseries that shared stories alleging that the 52-year-old singer had sex with underage girls and controlled the women with whom he had relationships. While others praised the series and journalist Gayle King for her televised interview with Kelly, Pisciotta took to Twitter to decry the “witch hunt” against the singer, and Jackson, fretting that the trial-by-docu-

mentary phenomenon was akin to smear campaigns.

“What I saw was a man who made mistakes like we all have and who’s being extorted,” she said in a phone interview, regarding Kelly. “I love the #MeToo movement, because I’m a woman, and I can relate, and I appreciate everyone’s struggle. At the same time, I don’t want it to be taken advantage of.”

“This cancel culture, this call-out culture, makes it a lot easier for this whole thing to gain traction,” Pisciotta said of Kelly’s situation. She took to the internet to research Kelly’s story, including his 2008 child-pornography trial, in which he was acquitted. “I don’t know the truth,” she said. “All I know is he went on trial,



FRANK MICCLOTTA, INVISION/AP

R. Kelly performs at the BET Awards in Los Angeles in 2013.

and he was found not guilty.”

Even when a celebrity is accused of a crime, “the super-loyal fans, they just don’t believe it,” said Mara S. Aruguete, a psychology professor at Lincoln University in Missouri who has studied fan culture for nearly two decades. “They feel like the accusers are being really unfair and that he’s not going to get a fair trial. They say, ‘He couldn’t have done that.’”

Most casual fans of accused celebrities aren’t going out of their way to defend them, she said. But others increasingly feel intertwined with their heroes and privy to details lesser fans somehow are not. “Our research bears that out,” said Aruguete. “They really do feel like they have a personal relationship — they really do feel like he’s innocent.”

Most Jackson fans predate social media but now have more access than ever to information (or disinformation, depending on what side you’re on). They’ve started fan accounts and deployed hashtags such as #LeavingNever-

landLies to rebut the claims against Jackson. They post court documents and talking points about the film, unearthing details “like private investigators,” as Kotecha put it.

Plus, for today’s celebrities, the carefully managed walls around them are breaking down, thanks to Twitter and Instagram. Many stars have employed social media to seem like relatable friends to their fans. This sense of intimacy has given rise to “stans,” a breed so obsessive their name seems to hint at both stalker and fan.

A few extreme stans can go to shocking lengths to defend celebrities. Singer Ariana Grande pleaded with her zealous followers last year to “be gentler” after they inundated her ex-boyfriend, actor Pete Davidson, with hateful messages and posts. When Justin Bieber lost the Grammy for best new artist in 2011 to jazz bassist Esperanza Spalding, Beliebers mobbed Spalding’s Wikipedia page to malign her. “Go die in a hole,” wrote one.

When Oronike Odeleye co-founded the #MuteRKelly campaign in 2017 to urge streaming services and music fans to phase out Kelly’s music, the stans fought back with their own hashtag: #PlayRKelly. (Streams of music by Kelly and Jackson rose markedly in the days immediately after their respective documentaries aired, according to Nielsen data.)

Odeleye has empathy for her online critics, who she said have myriad reasons for their defensiveness.

“There is a feeling that black people, and black men in particular, are targeted for this kind of media scrutiny that other men of their stature, men of other races, do not receive. I understand that,” she said.

Besides, “it’s hard to look at your idols as people and divorce yourself of the emotions that you feel when you think about the thing they have contributed to your life. R. Kelly ... he is the music that your aunt played at her wedding, he is the music your daughter sang at her graduation.”

As for Jackson, she wondered, “How can you think about him and not think about the joy you got from all of his decades of music?”

But, Odeleye said, the defenders are treading a slippery course toward willful ignorance. “They are like, ‘I am not going to watch this R. Kelly documentary. I’m going to blatantly disengage from all of that, so I can still enjoy him,’ or they’re going to find a way to make excuses. So they’re going to blame the victims, they’re going to blame the parents, they’re going to blame the lawyers.”

Kotecha said her faith in Jackson is hardly that blind. “Why we would stand up for him and spend our time fighting for him is because of the injustice. It also worries me: If we can treat someone on this level this way — completely ignore the presumption of innocence — what does that mean for the small guy who is wrongly accused?”

Available Now

STARS STRIPES®

Presents

FORCE FOR HIRE

A STARS AND STRIPES PODCAST



A new podcast from the unique perspective only Stars and Stripes can provide.

Explore the culture, history, myths and facts of Private Military Contracting and the new reality of modern warfare.

This month on Force for Hire

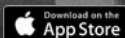
Blackwater, the myth, the fact, the standard

Blackwater gained a foothold in the public psyche so strong that the corporation remains synonymous with private military contracting.

Insight: Adam Gonzales

An in-depth look at the combat veteran who founded an online source for veterans to find employers looking for private contractors.

Listen Now on



and at **Stripes.com/podcasts**

WORLD

New Zealand issues ban on 'military-style' guns

Associated Press

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand — New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on Thursday announced a ban of "military-style" semi-automatic firearms and high-capacity magazines like those used in the shootings at Christchurch mosques last week.

Ardern said a sales ban was effective immediately to prevent stockpiling and would be followed by a complete ban on the weapons after new laws were rushed through.

She said people could hand over their guns under an amnesty while officials develop a formal buyback scheme, which could cost up to \$140 million.

The man charged in the mosque attacks had purchased his weapons legally using a standard firearms license and enhanced their capacity by using 30-round magazines "done easily through a simple online purchase," Ardern said.

"Every semi-automatic weapon used in the terrorist attack on Friday will be banned," she said.

The ban includes any semi-automatic guns or shotguns that are capable of being used with a detachable magazine that holds more than five rounds. It also extends to accessories used to convert guns into what the government called "military-style" weapons.

It does not include semi-automatic .22 caliber or smaller guns that hold up to 10 rounds or semi-automatic and pump-action shotguns with non-detachable



VINCENT THIAN/AP

Mourners arrive for a burial service of a victim from the March 15 mosque shootings at the Memorial Park Cemetery in Christchurch, New Zealand, on Thursday.

magazines that hold up to five rounds. The guns not banned are commonly used by farmers and hunters.

The government said the police and military would be exempt as would businesses carrying out professional pest control. Access for international shooting competitions would also be considered.

There are nearly 250,000 licensed gun owners in New Zealand, which has a population of 5 million people. Officials estimate there are 1.5 million guns in the country.

Ardern's announcement comes as authorities announced that all 50 bodies from the attacks were formally identified and families were burying their loved ones.

At least nine funerals took place Thursday, including for a teenager, a youth soccer coach and a Muslim convert who loved connecting with other women at the mosque.

After Ardern's announcement, one of New Zealand's largest gun retailers, Hunting & Fishing New Zealand, reiterated its support of "any government measure to permanently ban such weapons."

"While we have sold them in the past to a small number of customers, last week's events have forced a reconsideration that has led us to believe such weapons of war have no place in our business — or our country," chief executive Darren Jacobs said in a statement.

Indonesian official: 3rd pilot helped crew on next-to-last Lion Air flight

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — The chairman of Indonesia's transportation safety agency confirmed Thursday that a third pilot was in the cockpit of a Lion Air Boeing 737 Max 8 on a troubled flight the day before the aircraft crashed on Oct. 29, just minutes after takeoff.

However, Soerjanto Tjahjono, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Committee, on Thursday disputed reports citing recordings of cockpit discussions during the aircraft's final flight.

He suggested the reports fabricated details from the recordings.

The third pilot, who has not been identified, was qualified to fly Max 8s and was deadheading aboard the Oct. 28 flight from Bali's Denpasar airport to Jakarta. The aircraft encountered the same problems that appear

to have caused it to crash a day later. Some reports, citing unnamed sources, said the extra pilot had some experience with the problem and advised the two in charge of the flight on how to stop the plane from automatically pointing its nose downward, in line with Boeing's operating instructions.

It remains unclear if the pilots fully shared their difficulties handling the plane with safety regulators, the airline or the pilots who perished in the Oct. 29 flight.

Tjahjono said the NTSC interviewed the pilot but legally cannot publish its findings.

Indonesian investigators say they are still analyzing conversations from the Oct. 29 flight recorded by the cockpit voice recorder that was only recovered from the sea bed in January.

Interest in the investigation into the crash off Indonesia's

coast, which killed all 189 people aboard, has intensified following a crash of another Boeing 737 Max 8 in Ethiopia earlier this month that killed 157 people.

The Lion Air plane had issues on several flights before it crashed, with terrifying episodes of loss of altitude possibly related to an automated anti-stall system.

An earlier report issued by Indonesian aviation regulators describes technical problems aboard the plane's penultimate flight. It does not mention that a third person was in the cockpit along with the pilot and co-pilot.

Tjahjono said NTSC investigators have visited Boeing to carry out a reconstruction of that next-to-last flight. The agency will publish results of its investigation in August or September, he said.

Boeing 737 Max 8 aircraft have been grounded in many countries following the two crashes.



Multimedia Sales Manager, NF-04 (World Wide)

- US Citizens and Non-Citizens

Salary \$50,000 - \$70,000 per year



Stars and Stripes is looking for an employee to work out of our Tokyo Japan office. If selected for this NF-04 position you will be responsible for the development and performance of all sales activities in the assigned market. If you have previous supervisory experience and you have experience with revenue management then this is the opportunity you have been waiting for. Ability to speak conversational Japanese is a plus but not required.

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/522721200>

Supervisory Interactive Media Specialist, NF-04

(Local Japan) - US Citizens and Non-Citizens

Salary \$50,000 - \$69,000 per year



Stars and Stripes is looking for an employee to work out of our Tokyo Japan office. If selected for this NF-04 position you will be responsible for providing graphics and multimedia technical support to assist in developing, coordinating and implementing a comprehensive graphic design package for external and internal customers. If you have previous supervisory experience and you have experience working with Adobe Creative Cloud Suite: Illustrator, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, HTML & Flash scripts, then please apply for this exciting opportunity. Ability to speak conversational Japanese is a plus but not required.

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/513273900>

Multimedia Consultant, NF-04 (Local Okinawa)

- US Citizens and Non-Citizens

Salary \$35,900 - \$7,300 plus commissions per year



Stars and Stripes is looking for an employee to work out of our Okinawa office. If selected for this NF-04 position you will be responsible for providing client program solutions by mixing appropriate amounts of newspaper print, web and other digital applications, special magazines, inserts, commercial print, circulation, events and other promotions that fit within the client's budget. If you have three years of related experience or a bachelor's degree in marketing, advertising or related discipline AND one year of experience, then this golden opportunity could be yours. Ability to speak conversational Japanese is a strong plus but not required.

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/521852500>

All "DMA/Stars and Stripes" job announcements listed here!



<https://www.usajobs.gov/Search?7a=DR80>

WORLD

Flooding inundates southern Africa

By FARAI MUTSAKA
Associated Press

CHIMANIMANI, Zimbabwe — A week after Cyclone Idai hit coastal Mozambique and swept across the country to Zimbabwe, the death, damage and flooding continues in southern Africa, making it one of the most devastating natural disasters in the region's recent history.

Floodwaters are rushing across the plains of central Mozambique, submerging homes, villages and entire towns. The flooding has created a muddy inland ocean 31 miles wide where there used to be farms and villages, giving credence to Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi's estimate that 1,000 people may have been killed.

Torrential rains lifted — at least temporarily — Thursday, and floodwaters began to recede in Beira, the worst-hit city, and in the countryside, according to a Mozambican government report. Aid groups were working non-stop to rescue families clinging to tree branches and rooftops for safety from the surging waters.

"Yesterday, 910 people were rescued by the humanitarian community," said Caroline Haga of the International Federation of the Red Cross in Beira. She said 210 were rescued by five helicopters and 700 were saved by boats.



JOSH ESTEY, CARE/AP

A man stands in floodwaters following cyclone-force winds and heavy rain near the coastal city of Beira, Mozambique, on Wednesday. Torrential rains were expected to continue into Thursday and floodwaters were still rising, according to aid groups trying to get food, water and clothing to desperate survivors.

"We're hoping to rescue as many as we can today as it is not raining," she said. "Rescue activities will continue until everyone is brought to safety."

Aid organizations are trying to get food, water and clothing. It will be days before Mozambique's inundated plains drain toward the Indian Ocean and even longer before the full scale of the devastation is known.

Zimbabwe's eastern mountains have been deluged and the rain is continuing.

Aid has been slow to reach affected villagers due to collapsed infrastructure, although the military has been handing out small packets of cooking oil, maize meal and beans.

Zimbabwean officials have said some 350 people may have died in their country. The force of the floodwaters swept some victims from Zimbabwe down the mountainside into Mozambique, officials said.

With the search for survivors finished, Philenon Dada is has begun rebuilding his life in Chimanimani, once a picturesque town. With a machete and a hoe, he began salvaging poles from the mud to construct a hut to shelter his small family, a first step in what he sees as a long and back-breaking journey to rebuild a life shattered by Cyclone Idai.

He is one of many villagers trying to pick up the pieces in Chimanimani after losing homes, livestock and, in many instances, family members. Some have been taken in by neighbors and others are sheltering with church pastors.

"I can say I am a bit lucky, my wife and son are still here with

me but for everything else, I have to start from scratch," he said.

Dada has a few food items handed out by the Zimbabwe military, but he knows that like most aid it is unlikely to last long, and he is eager to start growing crops again. Like many people here, he survives on agriculture.

"My bean crop was ready for harvesting before the cyclone, the maize was close. I am back to zero," he said.

He is particularly pained by his two prized bulls that did the heavy work of drawing the plow for his field. They were killed in the floods.

"It may take a year, maybe even more years just to get back on my feet," he said.

Terrorism charges in Utrecht shooting

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — The main suspect in a deadly tram shooting in the Dutch city of Utrecht will be charged with offenses including multiple murder or manslaughter with a terrorist intent, prosecutors said Thursday.

Investigations so far into Monday's shooting that left three dead and three seriously injured indicate that the shooter acted alone, prosecutors said in a written statement.

The main suspect, identified by police as Gökmen Tanis, 37, of Turkish descent, also faces charges of attempted murder or manslaughter and making threats with a terrorist intent.

The prosecution office statement adds that investigations are continuing into whether the suspect's actions "flowed from personal problems combined with a radicalized ideology."

The team investigating the shooting will ask a forensic psychiatry and psychology institute to carry out a personality test on the suspect.

Tanis is to appear before an investigating judge on Friday. Such hearings are held behind closed doors.

Special offer!

Contact us at:
CustomerHelp@Stripes.com

This offer is only available in Mainland Japan, Okinawa, and South Korea.

The Great East Japan Earthquake

Now only \$2

STARS&STRIPES

A DOCUMENTATION OF THE U.S. FORCES' RELIEF EFFORTS.

ATTENTION: ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBERS & RECENT VETERANS

Did Your DEFECTIVE EARPLUGS Cause You HEARING LOSS?

If your standard issue 3M Combat Arms dual-ended earplugs failure caused your hearing loss or tinnitus during or after your deployment between 2003-2015, then the law firm of Weitz & Luxenberg P.C. is interested in speaking with you. You may be eligible for financial compensation depending upon your specific injuries and product usage.

Call **844-808-3919** today or visit www.EarPlugInjuryLawsuit.com to learn more.

Weitz & Luxenberg P.C. has represented thousands of your fellow veterans for their toxic torts claims and has achieved more than \$17 Billion in verdicts and settlements in the past three decades and would be honored to discuss your potential case.

WEITZ & LUXENBERG PC

700 BROADWAY | NEW YORK, NY 10003 | BRANCH OFFICES IN NJ, CA, & HI

844-808-3919 www.EarPlugInjuryLawsuit.com

ATTORNEY ADVERTISING. Prior results do not guarantee a future outcome. No fee unless you win. No fee or costs are charged.

WORLD

Group raids N. Korea embassy, contacts FBI

By JOHN HUDSON
The Washington Post

The revolutionary group that carried out a brazen daytime raid of North Korea's Embassy in Spain last month has shared information about the incident with the FBI, said people familiar with the meeting.

The decision by the group to engage federal authorities thrusts the U.S. intelligence community into a sensitive international investigation led by Spanish authorities, who have not publicly identified any suspects in the mysterious Feb. 22 operation.

It comes as the Trump administration seeks to improve ties with North Korea and negotiate a deal to eliminate its nuclear weapons program after decades of failed negotiations and mutual distrust.

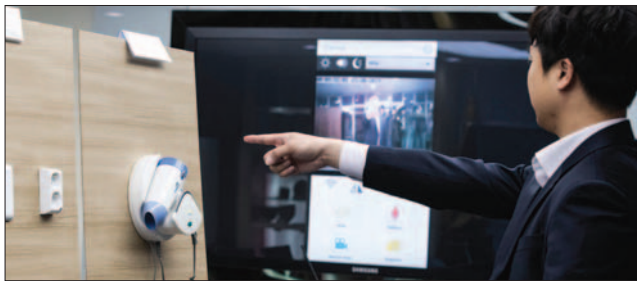
Any substantive ties between the group and U.S. authorities could complicate the nuclear negotiations given the organization's stated mission of overthrowing and replacing North Korea's Kim dynasty. The secretive group calls itself Free Joseon but is also known as Cheollima Civil Defense.

On Thursday, the group released a video of one of its members destroying portraits of North Korea's founder, Kim Il Sung, and his son and successor, Kim Jong Il. The captions of the 34-second clip exclaim "Down with Kim family rule!" and claim it took place on "our homeland's soil," suggesting the footage was possibly shot inside the North Korean Embassy in Madrid.

The raid on the embassy generated international headlines last week after Spanish authorities released details about the incident, telling reporters it was carried out by 10 masked assailants who entered the embassy with fake firearms, tied up the staff and interrogated them.

Reports said the assailants stole computers, documents and other items before speeding away in two cars with diplomatic license plates that were later abandoned on a nearby street.

It is unclear why the group reached out to U.S. authorities, but its published statements indicate that it is fearful of a punitive response from the North Korean regime.



YUN DONG-JIN, YONHAP/AP

A South Korean police officer demonstrates mini-spy cameras installed at hair dryer, as he is shown on a screen, center rear, at a police station in Seoul. Four people have been arrested on suspicion of secretly filming about 1,600 guests in hotel rooms throughout central and southeastern South Korea.

S. Korea: 4 used spy cameras on hotel guests

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korean police said Thursday they've arrested four people on suspicion of secretly taking videos of about 1,600 guests in hotel rooms and posting or streaming them on the internet.

The Korean National Police Agency said mini spy cameras were set up in TV set-top boxes, hair dryer cradles or electrical outlets in 42 rooms in 30 hotels in central and southeastern South

Korea.

A police statement said the men of earned about 7 million won (\$6,210) by posting or livestreaming the video on an overseas-based internet site between November and early March. If convicted, the two main suspects could face up to seven years in prison.

Police said one of the suspects installed the cameras after entering the hotels as a guest. The other was accused of launching and managing the now-shuttered website. The other two were al-

legedly involved in buying the spy cameras or funding the website's operation, according to police.

Police said they are the first people arrested in South Korea for allegedly livestreaming the private lives of hotel guests via an overseas-based website.

In a separate case, a Seoul district court on Thursday was reviewing whether to issue an arrest warrant for a K-pop singer on allegations he secretly filmed himself having sex with women and then sharing the videos.

You determine the annual BEST OF THE PACIFIC!



You have a chance to win a
\$300 gift card!

Your vote matters!

STARS AND STRIPES

Vote online by March 24
at bestofpacific.stripes.com



CAST YOUR VOTE!

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man attacked by 'crazy squirrel' gone nuts

FL MIAMI — Who knew, in Florida, you can be on the lookout for attacking squirrels?

According to news reports, and a man with the wounds to prove it, a squirrel "has gone nuts" in the Florida town and, without provocation, attacked and bit the victim on the elbow and scratched him on the arm.

A surveillance video captured the attack.

The squirrel, which Robby Armstrong said was raised by his neighbors when it was a baby and then released, bit other residents.

On Wednesday, Armstrong told the Miami Herald he was "fine" and that the squirrel "is still roaming around."

Teachers investigated for alleged punishment

IL EAST ST. LOUIS — Two teachers in Illinois are on paid leave as authorities investigate allegations that one forced preschool children to stand naked in a closet with the door open as punishment for misbehaving.

The teachers are with a Head Start program operated by Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in East St. Louis.

KMOV-TV reported that police allege one teacher inappropriately disciplined the students, while the other teacher witnessed the incidents but didn't report them.

University Police Chief Kevin Schmolz told the Belleville News-Democrat that a supervisor alerted police on March 14. He said at least four students were allegedly subjected to such treatment.

Man sentenced for plot to steal smuggled drugs

VT RUTLAND — A North Carolina man who court documents say imported drugs from Canada "utilizing the dark web" was sentenced Wednesday to two more days in jail for plotting to steal a shipment of counterfeit Xanax pills valued at \$1.6 million that were pulled across the Vermont-Quebec border on a sled.

Yazid Al Fayyad Finn of Cary, N.C., was sentenced Wednesday in federal court in Rutland to time served since his February 2018 arrest, plus two days. Finn pleaded guilty last summer to a charge of conspiracy to possess drugs and a gun charge from North Carolina.

Prosecutors say that Finn, 31, traveled to Vermont in January 2016 planning to steal almost 200 pounds of Xanax pills that had been dragged across the border on a sled by Cedrik Bourgault-Morin, 21, of Quebec who was apprehended by Border Patrol agents.

Teen player benched because head is too big

DE WILMINGTON — A high school lacrosse player in Delaware can't play in games because his head is too big.

THE CENSUS

999

The number of Rubik's Cubes a Massachusetts fourth-grader used to build a mosaic tribute to New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady. Maxim Lin's creation, a head and shoulders image of the six-time Super Bowl champion, took about two months to complete and even longer to plan. It's encased in a 7 feet tall by 5 feet wide wooden frame the 10-year-old Westwood boy built with his father.



MARK ROGERS, ODESSA (TEXAS) AMERICAN/AP

Blessing of the bikes

The Misfits in Christ Motorcycle Ministry hold a blessing of the bikes for their members in front of their Solid Rock Fellowship church in Midland, Texas.

The News Journal of Wilmington reported that Billy Boyd's head measures 25 inches around. An average grown man's head is about 21 to 23 inches in circumference. Regulation helmets aren't available in his size, so he's not allowed to compete.

The 6-foot-2 Cape Henlopen freshman, 15, and his father, Bill, have struggled to find larger, custom-made helmets that can be approved.

Dozens of dead animals again found in freezer

VA VIRGINIA BEACH — Authorities in Virginia say a Virginia Beach woman has once again been found to be in possession of dozens of dead animals.

The Virginian-Pilot reported authorities responding to the home Monday found more than 100 dead animals, 24 live cats and a live dog. Animal Control Supervisor Meghan Conti said the dead animals had been stored in freezers or in a plastic container in the garage, where they decomposed beyond recognition.

This isn't the first time so many dead creatures were found at a home belonging to Lisa D. Ross.

In 2009, Ross' son was linked

to a plot to kill high school students. Authorities searching her home for weapons found 120 cats, half were dead. Similar discoveries happened again in 2012 and 2013.

Printer ink spill blocks all interstate lanes

GA ATLANTA — A truck carrying 40,000 pounds of printer ink overturned on an Atlanta interstate, closing all lanes on an outer loop for four hours. That's 5,500 gallons of ink.

News outlets reported a car cut in front of the truck around 2 a.m. Wednesday, causing the truck to lose control and crash.

All lanes on I-285's outer loop were closed while crews used sand and dirt to soak up the ink.

Duo nabbed trying to steal Capone statue

AR HOT SPRINGS — It was a caper Scarface might have sanctioned ... until they dropped him and got collared.

Authorities said two Missouri men snatched a statue of Al Capone from its seat outside the

Ohio Club in Hot Springs early Saturday morning.

Club owner Mike Pettey told the Hot Springs Sentinel-Record that the men dropped it and he was able to chase them down and take back the statue. He said the statue suffered a broken fedora brim, arm and leg amounting to about \$3,500 worth of damage.

The two Missouri men, Mason Potter Jr. and Andrew Vaughn, were charged with public intoxication and criminal mischief.

Chess victory is ticket out of shelter for boy, 8

NY NEW YORK — An 8-year-old boy's victory as New York state chess champion will be his family's ticket out of a homeless shelter.

The New York Times reported that Tani Adekunle won the state chess title for his age group this month even though he only learned to play about a year ago.

Tani and his family have lived in a New York City shelter since fleeing Nigeria in 2017. The family feared attacks by terrorist group Boko Haram on Christians like themselves.

Tani's chess coach Russell Makofsky set up a GoFundMe account for the family after Tani

won the championship.

Makofsky joined Tani on NBC's "Today" show Tuesday and said that thanks to donations the family is moving into an apartment.

9 arrested in school game riot expelled

WA VANCOUVER — Officials said nine students who were arrested after a riot broke out at an 8th-grade basketball tournament in southwest Washington were expelled from their schools.

Vancouver School District officials said Monday that officials were still investigating others who may have been involved in the incident.

Officials said two students got into a fight in the stands at Gaiser Middle School and that security officers removed them from the gym.

Officials say several students followed them and that more joined and interfered as the students were taken outside. The deputies called for backup as they were surrounded by 60 to 70 teens who shouted racial slurs and threats of assault and death against the officers.

From wire reports

WEEKEND

■ Who is Alex Trebek?
How an icon was made
Television, Page 38



MODERN MASTER

Jordan Peele proves he's the horror filmmaker of the moment with 'Us,' a '70s-inspired instant classic that lives up to great expectations in the wake of 'Get Out'

Profile on Page 24

Movie review on Page 25

WEEKEND: GADGETS



JESSICA GRIFFIN, PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/TNS

Red Queen Gaming's Dan DuLeone poses in the company's office Feb. 22 in Cherry Hill, N.J. The company promotes development of gaming tools — aids to improve player experience.

Etsy for gaming tools

Red Queen start-up aims to help struggling players

By DIANE MASTRULL
Philly.com

Once upon a time, video games were pretty basic. Consider “Pac-Man,” the chomping mouth that devoured small dots while moving through a maze. Now, games are so complex that players need Excel spreadsheets, calculators and troop-deployment schedules to wage virtual wars, capture castles and build strategic alliances with players in other states and countries. Having an engineering degree helps.

Which is why “Lords & Knights” — or “L&K,” as avid gamers call it — intrigued Dan DuLeone, 35, a software engineer from Moorestown, N.J., who even as a child “would spend time trying to hack (any video) game rather than get good at it.” It was a hobby his parents didn’t discourage because he was sharpening code-writing skills, he said.

“I said, ‘Lots of people are playing this game and they’re struggling,’” DuLeone recalled of his introduction to “L&K.”

In that agony he found the inspiration for Red Queen Gaming, a Philadelphia start-up created by DuLeone and two others to promote development of gaming tools — aids to improve player experience in what is a multibillion-dollar industry showing no signs of waning.

“There is nothing like Red Queen out there and it’s a revolutionary idea for gaming,” said Stuart Graham, 33, of Edinburgh, Scotland, a web and app developer by profession and longtime gamer. He started with an Atari ST home computer.

A Pokemon map he created to show pokestop and gym locations, a big benefit to rural players of the real-world immersion game, is available on Red Queen’s platform.

“Red Queen has every chance at becoming a huge part of gaming in the future,” Graham said. “Tools for games have clearly proven itself as something gamers want and love.”

Graham doesn’t mean tools such as pickaxes and hammers, instruments of play in “Minecraft,” for instance. To avoid such confusion, Red Queen calls the game tools it wants to bring to market “runes.”

“Runes fit into the Red Queen fantasy lore,” said cofounder and CEO Alex Gilbert, 34. “Essentially, Runecrafters use the gift of magic to create runes that imbue weaponry with magical powers ... to gain an advantage in battle.”

DuLeone, the chief technology officer, and Gilbert have been best friends since high school. They launched Red Queen in 2015 as a platform where rune developers can sell their apps to players through a subscription model. The third founder is Bill Smith, who joined the company in 2017 as chief operations officer.

Red Queen charges players \$3 to \$8 a month, depending on how many tools they want to access. Game-playing tools are in great demand. But developing and marketing them is difficult, time-consuming work. And most gamers have full-time jobs, with little interest or insufficient free hours to build websites, scrounge for advertisers or administer payment systems.

“Without this, there would be far less incentive for people like me to gamble the development hours on something that might never be used or bring no return revenue,” said Graham, the Pogo-Map creator. “Red Queen is therefore extremely important in giving creators the confidence to bring an idea to life.”

In a sense, Red Queen is what Etsy is for artists. But much more.

Recently, it launched an academy to help make tool creation almost as simple as a drag-and-drop experience. Rune developers simply need to plug software code into a digital portal. Red Queen also has started an incubator to teach aspiring software engineers to code through gaming.

It’s as altruistic as it is market wise. By driving more creators to Red Queen’s platform, more gaming tools will reach more players which, in turn, is a boon for game developers.

By some estimates, video gaming is a \$140 billion industry with 2.7 billion players worldwide.

Andrew Linde, 34, of Connecticut, is founder of six-year-old Juncture Media, which is about to release its first game in May for PCs and Macs — AVARIAs, a competitive game set in a fantasy sci-fi world. Red Queen is helping develop the first gaming tool for it which, Linde said, will enable players of AVARIAs to have “a larger experience.”

Being able to launch the game with such player assistance “increases retention,” he said.

“With games that are highly strategic, like ours, (players) can spend hours just practicing strategies, and tools like this allow them to do this,” Linde said. “I know a lot of gamers that build their own Excel sheets and own journals filled with game data.”

GADGET WATCH

Booster kills dead zones

By GREGG ELLMAN
Tribune News Service

The Mercku M2 Wi-Fi router system, which is accurately called “The Wi-Fi system that has your whole house covered” on the Mercku homepage, is a product I loved instantly because it’s simple, easy to install and worked perfectly on the first try.

This system doesn’t replace your existing Wi-Fi. Instead, the Mercku hardware takes the signal and sends it to the dead zones in your home, which just about everyone has, including me.

Most homes have Wi-Fi brought in where it was convenient for the cable company or your provider. For the most part, it was the right choice at the time because that’s where your computer and the router were needed. But now in the era of smartphones, tablets, smart TVs and Alexa, we need Wi-Fi everywhere.

First for the setup: Along with the router, a 3-foot Ethernet cable and an AC adapter is included. A quick start guide instructs you to plug in the power connection and connect the Ethernet cable to the back of the Mercku M2 router.

To complete the setup, use either a browser or a smartphone app. I went with the smartphone Mercku companion app (iOS and Android). It has a user-friendly interface and well-written instructions to walk you through a few steps to get your router connected.

Consider the first M2 router you connect as your home base; now you can add M2 routers to conquer the dead zones, which can be upstairs, downstairs or around corners.

I placed number two in an extra bedroom where I previously never seemed to get a good signal. The additional M2s do not have a direct connection to the first one you connected. Instead, they make a wireless connection to the first, which is all set up in minutes with the app.

I added a third on the opposite side of my house the same way. The entire setup with three rout-

ers was less than 10 minutes.

Along with the advantage of spreading around your Wi-Fi signal, according to Mercku, the M2 performs nearly twice as fast as the industry average and can support up to 60 devices, which should be good for any family. The app even tells you which devices are connected to the system.

Wi-Fi hardware generally is hidden in back rooms or under tables. Since you have to spread the M2 routers (3.93-by-3.93-by-4.94mm) around your home, it was a smart move by the company to design the hardware so it’s not an eyesore.

The dual-band M2 router has backside ports for the LAN and WAN ethernet lines, USB2.0 and AC power (12V / 1.5A). It supports Wi-Fi 2.4G 300 Mbps and 5G 867 Mbps.

During my testing, I had a video playing on my iPad as I walked from room to room. Like any Wi-Fi, the speed can vary based on how far you are from the source, what you’re using it for and how many are on the system. But I was watching in rooms, buffer-free, where in the past the buffer made me shut down.

While I used the M2 routers, Mercku also has small AC-powered Bee Nodes, which plug into any socket and spread Wi-Fi to the largest of homes.

Within the app you can see what devices are connected to the Wi-Fi, whether the router’s on, set up security with passwords and even hide the network so it can’t be seen without knowing both the network name and its accompanying password. Speed tests can also be run right in the app along with control to block devices, websites and how much speed specific devices get.

The M2 router is \$119 and the M2 Bee Node is \$59 each. You can buy complete home packages, for example, an M2 router and four Bee Nodes are \$299.

Online: mercku.tech



Mercku’s AC-powered Bee Nodes plug into any socket and spread Wi-Fi throughout the house.

The Mercku M2 Wi-Fi router system takes your Wi-Fi signal and sends it to the dead zones in your home.

PHOTOS BY MERCKU/TNS

ON THE COVER: Director Jordan Peele’s latest horror thriller is “Us,” starring Lupita Nyong’o.

ILLUSTRATION BY SEAN MOORES/Stars and Stripes; Universal Pictures, AP photos

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time



Paul Giamatti and Damian Lewis star in the television show "Billions."

SHOWTIME ENTERTAINMENT/TNS

1

'Billions': Back, and better than ever

College basketball is going to be on a lot of television sets this weekend, but what if NCAA hoops aren't your thing? Fans of drama "Billions" should enjoy the show's return as Season 4 gets underway Friday. Paul Giamatti, who plays a U.S. attorney, and Damian Lewis, as a hedge-fund pirate, were once onetime antagonists but now have joined forces on the show about egotistical New Yorkers and the money, power and vengeance that motivates them. With brilliant performances, first-rate writing and plots that seemingly foresee current events, "Billions" holds its own amid the vast sea of TV options.

- Season 4 premiere of 'Billions' airs Friday on AFN-Spectrum.

2

Time to restore order in postapocalyptic DC

Hoist your weapons and grab your cyber-running shoes, co-op shooter fans — "Tom Clancy's The Division 2" needs you to clean up the capital. A loot shooter as its core, "The Division 2" is a sequel to a 2016 title that presented a wrecked New York City. Whether collecting weapons, overcoming thugs or just marveling at the top-notch rendering of Washington, players will appreciate the labor that went into crafting a video game of the highest quality.

- Review on Page 26.

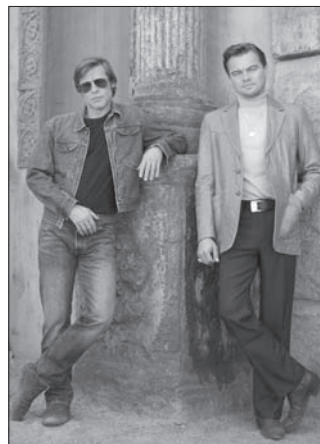


3

Tarantino trailer contains lots of pretty people

The first trailer for one of the most hotly anticipated films of 2019 has arrived. "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood," aka director Quentin Tarantino's ninth film, is a story about a fading TV actor (Leonardo DiCaprio) and his stunt double (Brad Pitt) chasing fame and success in 1969 Hollywood. In case that wasn't enough eye candy, Margot Robbie also stars. As unlikely as casting Pitt in a behind-the-scenes role is, we'll suspend disbelief for the opportunity to see DiCaprio and Pitt in their first movie collaboration. The end of the trailer yields one last chuckle when the voice-over says that the film is not yet rated. We'll put all our money on an R.

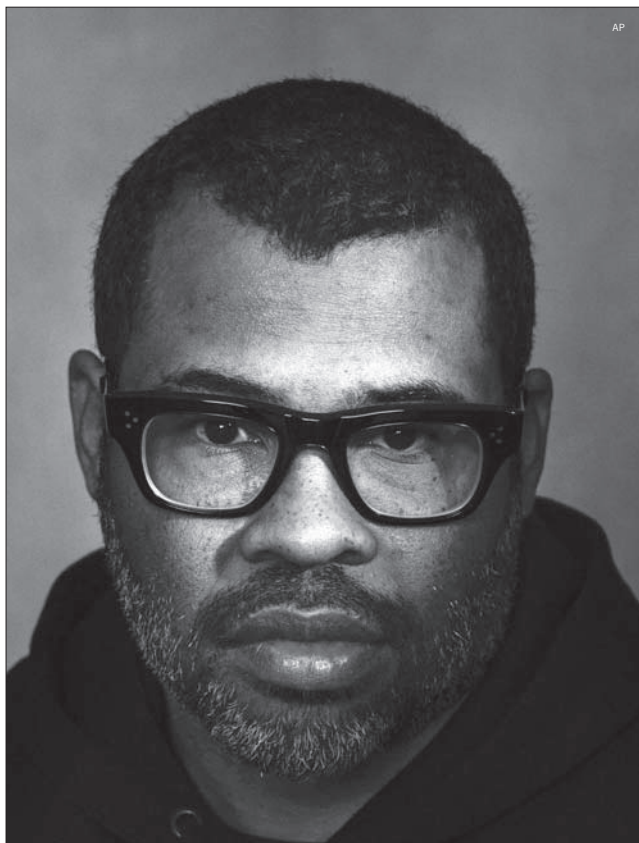
- Watch it at youtu.be/Scf8n1JCvs4.



COLUMBIA PICTURES/TNS

Brad Pitt will play Leonardo DiCaprio's character's stunt double in "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood."

WEEKEND: MOVIES



AP

In Peele we trust

Following his massively successful debut, 'Get Out,' director says the budget and talent he wants for 'Us'

By LINDSEY BAHR ■ Associated Press

Jordan Peele's sweet spot as a filmmaker are the "pit in your stomach" moments. That thing that happens when you realize the woman stirring the tea isn't just there for conversation. When you notice that the help is a little off. Or, as in his new film "Us," when you see that the family of four standing in your driveway late at night looks exactly like you.

Peele knows how to get under your skin and stay there, and it's what made him the must-see horror filmmaker of the moment. "Us" is only his second, and yet it's been an event in the making ever since it was announced. That's what happens when your debut is "Get Out."



UNIVERSAL PICTURES/AP

Writer, producer and director Jordan Peele hopes to replicate the success of "Get Out" with his new film, "Us," in theaters Friday.

"Get Out" wasn't even finished when the former sketch-comedian started cooking up the idea for his follow-up about doppelgangers, loosely inspired by the "Twilight Zone" episode "Mirror Image." Then the wild success of "Get Out" — four Oscars nominations, one win (Peele for original screenplay), more than \$255 million in tickets sold against a \$4.5 million budget, and general cultural impact — put Peele on another level. So by the time Universal Pictures agreed to make "Us," not only did he have a budget more than five times higher than his first, but he had his pick of collaborators, too.

"Because of 'Get Out,' I was privileged enough to be able to tap the best talent in the industry," Peele said recently.

That goes for stars Lupita Nyong'o and Winston Duke, who play dual roles as the nuclear American family, the Wilsons, and the terrifying, scissor-wielding Red and Abraham, as well as the below-the-line talent: Production designer Ruth De Jong ("Twin Peaks"); cinematographer Mike Gioulakis ("It Follows"); and costume designer Kym Barrett ("The Matrix") among them.

"I had an amazing team on 'Get Out,'" Peele said. "But this group sort of allowed me to stretch a little bit more."

Duke was impressed by his calm. He knew there were "sophomore pressures" — he had his own set following his breakout role in "Black Panther" — but said Peele never brought any of that to set.

"Day One, (Peele) said, 'Before we do anything I just want to let you guys know that I'm here for you. I won't stop until we get the shot. When I say cut, we got the shot. So I trust me, believe in me,'" Duke said. "And I was like, that's all I need."

Duke and Nyong'o already had a shorthand working together. Yes, they had just both been in "Black Panther," but they were also Yale Drama School graduates and have seen one another do everything from clown work to Chekov.

"It was great to be able to perform with someone who I value as much more than a friend — I value her as a cohort. I value her as an ally. I went to work every day trying to make sure we could create a space where she could excel. I thought that was my duty," Duke said. "We had a

female lead and in our climate in Hollywood we were doing the work and leading by example."

Peele put them both through the wringer. The days on set as the Wilsons were full of laughter and fun. But the days as the murderous doppelgangers known as The Tethered, Peele said, felt like "a morgue."

"The air getting sucked out of the room is an understatement. But it was kind of cool," Peele said. The actors went "pretty method" on those days.

Nyong'o had it especially hard. She'd chosen to affect a strained vocal condition — spasmodic dysphonia — to make Red even more haunting. And she had to do Red's first big monologue 11 times with that raspy, painful-sounding voice.

"Us" is chock full of pop culture references, subtle and overt: A "Jaws" T-shirt here, a C.H.U.D. VHS there. And every reference works "on two different levels and hopefully more," Peele said. But don't stress if you don't catch or decipher them all.

"There are many of these things that only I will ever know," Peele revealed.

Although one thing is not really up for interpretation: The genre. He tweeted recently that "Us" is a horror movie.

"I can see the debate already beginning and people are calling it different things. I have a little bit of fun with the big genre conversation," he said. "But I saw enough little pieces of like 'horror-thriller,' 'horror-comedy,' 'social-thriller,' out there that I just want to make it nice, clean and defined: It's a horror movie."

Peele hasn't tired of explaining that "Us" isn't about race, either. Though he understands why people might think it would be, considering "Get Out."

"I know the way we, the lack of representation in the industry and genre has led us to this point where it's almost impossible to not see race in a movie with a black family in the center. And I wanted people to be ready to expand their expectations," Peele said. "My fear was if I didn't say anything that people would take away that this was a movie about black-on-black violence, which was not my intention."

As for whether Peele has felt internal or external pressures to make "Get Out" so magic?

"There are, but it's OK," he laughed. "It's just movies."

WEEKEND: MOVIES

‘Us’ is a whip-smart modern horror classic

By KATIE WALSH
Tribune News Service

Comedian-turned-filmmaker Jordan Peele earned an Oscar for “Get Out,” his debut feature film, so the stakes are high for his follow-up, “Us.” Premiering to primed audiences at the South by Southwest Film Festival in Austin, Texas, the reviews have been raves for Peele’s latest, and it’s a pleasure to report they are correct. There’s no sophomore slump to be found here, and Peele remains one of the most exciting American filmmakers — in any genre — to come around in a long time. “Us” is signature Peele — a ’70s-inspired horror flick that weaves its references on its sleeve, grapples with big ideas and crawls with genuinely creepy tension, lightened with dashes of well-earned humor. This is a family horror melodrama that ponders huge philosophical questions about our own existence and identity. But it doesn’t just pose conspiracy theories and ask “what if?” “Us” brings all those nightmares to life and visualizes the worst-case scenario.

Like so many of the great classic horror films of the ’70s — “The Exorcist,” “Rosemary’s Baby,” “Carrie,” “Halloween,” etc. — Peele uses the horror genre to explore the meaning of family and our postmodern freedom sense of self. Of the unspectating picture-perfect American family is the Wilsons: Gabe (Lupita Nyong’o), Adelaide (Wunna Nyong’o) and



A family is tormented by its own doppelgangers in “Us,” starring, from left, Evan Alex, Lupita Nyong’o and Shahadi Wright Joseph. UNIVERSAL PICTURES/AP

their children, Zora (Shahadi Wright Joseph) and Jason (Evan Alex). They arrive in Santa Cruz, Calif., at their family summer home ready to enjoy the beach town — even though Adelaide is troubled by disturbing memories of her childhood there.

“Us” is a classic home invasion thriller, but it’s so much more than that. It traffics in dangerous

doppelgangers, body doubles and twins. When a strangely identical version of the Wilson family — clad in red jumpsuits and wielding sharp scissors — shows up in their driveway one night, it turns out to be a soul invasion. As both Adelaide and Red, the matriarch of the photocopied Wilson family and leader of the attack, Nyong’o anchors Peele’s

film with a horrifyingly spell-binding and bone-rattling dual performance. Red is a horror hall-of-fame scary mommy unlike any you’ve ever seen.

Nyong’o is virtuosic, transcendent in her performance, and Peele demonstrates a mastery over filmmaking craft and tone much in the same way he did with “Get Out.” He has tapped

“It Follows” cinematographer Michael Gioulakis to lens “Us,” using long, slow camera movements that build slow, creeping dread, while composer Michael Abels combines classical composition with pop and hip-hop to create a score and soundtrack that reflects the blend of traditional and irreverent that has become Peele’s hallmark.

But while the script for “Get Out” felt like a tightly wound watch, gears catching just so, every detail in place, “Us” feels bigger, broader and yes, messier. Peele has widened his scope from one community’s terrible secret to the entire country, dabbling in ideas of governmental mind control and total societal collapse. It at once feels like a home invasion thriller, a zombie movie, an apocalypse film and ultimately an identity crisis. It’s incredible that “Us” manages to be all those things with style and grace, but there’s a looseness that feels like it hasn’t fully set yet.

Despite any wobbles in the scope of the script, Peele is a devastatingly effective horror filmmaker, wringing tension from the slightest moments, and his storytelling ambition and creativity are astonishing. However, it wouldn’t be as truly terrifying as it is without the jaw-dropping performance from his leading lady Nyong’o, and with this collaboration they have created another whip-smart modern horror classic.

“Us” is rated R for violence/terror and language. Running time: 116 minutes.

‘Hotel Mumbai’ preserves tragic history of 2008 terrorist attack

By KATIE WALSH
Tribune News Service

With terrorist attacks and mass shootings occurring regularly, it can be all too easy to forget or blur the details of some of the most dramatic, recent violent events. There’s a sense of history being preserved and archived through the mediated lens of fiction filmmaking in Anthony Maras’ “Hotel Mumbai.” Maras makes his directorial debut with the gripping, nearly minute-by-minute account of the carnage that unfolded in the grand Taj Mahal Palace hotel in Mumbai during the terrorist attacks of November 2008. It’s a meticulous depiction of the events that is at once disturbing, yet also illuminating.

Maras plunges us into the action as the terrorists, a group of 10 young Pakistani men wielding automatic weapons and grenades, land in the city via dinghy and then scatter and disperse via taxi, moving down people at a train station and cafe. Although the attacks took place in 12 different locations in Mumbai, Maras keeps the focus of the film on the events at the hotel, a historic luxury property where “guest is god.” The terrorists are about to slip in undetected with a group of their own victims seeking shelter from the gunfire and dig in for a siege that lasts days.

Maras carefully lays out not only the geography of the hotel, but its routines, rhythms and rituals — and most importantly, the people. He establishes an emotional arc for almost every staff member, from the chefs who choose to stay, wielding mallets and butcher knives, to the receptionists who would rather sacrifice their own lives than put guests in danger.

The events unfold through several different perspectives of the staff and guests. There’s Arjun (Dev Patel), a young Sikh waiter who desperately needs the job, and his stern but empathetic boss, Chef Oberoi (Anupam Kher). A young family made up of an Indian heiress, Zahra (Nazanin Boniadi), her American husband, David (Armie Hammer), their baby and nanny Sally (Tilda Cobham-Hervey) arrive for their stay and cross paths with a mysterious Russian playboy (Jason Isaacs).

But perhaps most interestingly, Maras and co-writer John Collee provide the perspective of the terrorists too, a bunch of incredibly young men hopped up on financial desperation and jihadi rhetoric. Clad in T-shirts and jeans, they remorselessly murder innocent people, but we are privy to their private moments of vulnerability. They constantly have the voice of “Brother Bull” in their ear, promising them paradise, money for their families, justifying the murders in the name of Allah. That



BLEECKER STREET/AP

“Hotel Mumbai” is a fact-based drama that recalls the 2008 terrorist attacks on the Indian city. Starring, from left, Nazanin Boniadi, Dev Patel and Armie Hammer.

constant voice underscores how radicalism — of any kind — is a cult preying on vulnerable young men, exploiting their insecurities and extracting holy war from class struggle. To fully understand them would be impossible, but in their moments of weakness and panic, it’s all too clear how human they are, which makes their actions that much more devastating.

Visceral and suspenseful, “Hotel Mumbai” is also deeply humane and moving,

anchored by searing performances from Patel, Kher, Boniadi and Hammer. The film refuses to settle on one hero, allowing the hotel itself to emerge as the ultimate hero. At times it feels a bit strange to feel this emotional for an institution, but Maras never loses sight of the most important element: the people.

“Hotel Mumbai” is rated R for disturbing violence throughout, bloody images and language. Running time: 123 minutes.

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



Players use the White House as a base of operations as they try to retake the capital in "Tom Clancy's The Division 2."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF UBISOFT/TNS

Plenty to shoot, plenty to love in 'Division 2'

BY BRIAN BOWERS
Stars and Stripes

Rarely has a video game been more about hope. "Tom Clancy's The Division 2" is about bringing hope to a plague-stricken metropolis beset by warring gangs and paramilitary forces.

It's also about bringing hope to gamers who have experienced some recent disappointments with cooperative shooters. "Anthem" is a rocket-powered sci-fi adventure that's going down in flames, and "Fallout 76" turned into a postapocalyptic disaster.

Fortunately, "The Division 2" — developed by Massive Entertainment for Ubisoft — avoids the pitfalls of its predecessors and delivers plenty to enjoy in both solo and cooperative play.

The game is the sequel to a 2016 game in which a biological attack overwhelms New York City. You play as an agent of the Strategic Homeland Division, a secret organization designed to maintain order in just such a cataclysmic situation.

As the new game starts, you're an agent trying to bring order to another city seven months after the onset of the plague. Suddenly, your high-tech gear goes dark and you receive a distress call from Washington. You have a new assignment.

When you reach D.C., you discover that the Division's base of operations — the White House — is under siege by a group of rogues known as the Hyenas. It doesn't take too long to figure your way to the base, where you learn that the Division is on the ropes. You need to resolve the issues that caused the failure of the Division's network, and you need to bolster the civilian settlements scattered across the city.

This might be the setting and motivation, but "Division" is a loot shooter at its core. Acquiring bigger, better and more powerful arms, armor and gadgets is the point of the game for most players. They want loot in ever-increasing quantities and quality, and "Division 2" delivers just that. Hidden nooks and obscure passageways contain crates with armor or cases with guns. And, of course, well-

supplied foes drop plenty of goodies. Although most of the bounty can be sold for funds or broken down for crafting materials, it's rare to go long without picking up a prize that will add to your firepower, defenses or abilities.

The game's weaponry comes in the usual varieties — sniper rifles, shotguns, assault rifles, pistols, machine guns and more. These are well-balanced and satisfying at the beginning and only get better as you find more advanced versions and add attachments to enhance their characteristics.

In addition to weapons, special tech enhances the experience by offering drones, turrets and other gear that allow you to heal, extend firepower, immobilize



enemies with foam or emit chemical clouds with a number of properties. Used well, these items can turn the tide in a fight.

The basic gameplay and rhythms are pretty similar to the original title.

You enter a zone of the city, find a survivors' settlement, overcome the local thugs, and undertake various side missions that enable you to settle into thrive.

As with the previous edition, it's wise to be wary when walking the streets — especially when fighting solo. Enemies are relatively smart and use cover and flanking maneuvers to good effect. Also, each area has an ideal level range, and it's wise to keep that in mind. A firefight against foes of comparable level is going to require taking cover and possibly the use of high-tech gadgets to ensure victory. A battle against enemies two levels higher than your agent is going to be tough, and the outcome far from certain. If the difference in levels is much more than that, you'd better decide where you'd like to respawn before you even pull the trigger.

There are several basic types of missions and tasks. Most can be accomplished solo, but the game is designed for cooperative play, so most tend to go more



Overall grade: **A**

smoothly with help.

In each zone, there are control points to capture, hidden tech to recover, public executions to interrupt and propaganda broadcasts to shut down. These minor events help keep the action moving, but they are also essential to stabilizing the local area. As a zone becomes more stable, the local settlement becomes stronger and eventually can provide direct assistance to the Division headquarters at the White House.

Main story missions make major strides in reaching the goal of bringing stability to D.C. However, calling the string of events that weaves through the game a "story" is stretching the word's meaning. There isn't a sense of narrative so much as a feeling of progress.

Side missions advance the cause, but tend to be much more difficult to accomplish in solo play — especially at higher levels. In some areas, side missions are incredibly difficult with anything less than a full team of four players. However, this makes them exciting and emotionally rewarding.

While many main and side missions could be set anywhere — dealing with attackers' bases, foiling evil plans and restoring vital services — there are a few that take advantage of Washington's unique status. In one mission, a militaristic gang known as the True Sons is cannibalizing exhibits in the National Air and Space Museum to build missiles. In another, you need to recover the Declaration of Independence from the National Archives.

The individual missions are very well conceived. Each offers a series of encounters in a well-designed battle space that builds to a climactic fight against a tough boss and his or her henchmen. Along the way, you might need to activate some sort of gizmo or destroy a gadget, but the core of each mission is combat. A mix of tactics and weapons is required in almost every setting, which keeps the action fresh and engaging.

When tackling a mission in a four-player team, coordination and commu-

nication are vital. There are generally so many threats and so much action that lack of communication generally proves fatal to the team.

The game does a good job of scaling encounters based on the number and level of the players involved. The strength of the enemies is keyed to the highest-level player in the party, and low-level players are given a boost so they stand a chance against these tough foes. This allows all players to participate on relatively equal footing.

"Division 2" offers a wide variety of content beyond the main set of missions — addressing a major complaint against "Anthem."

The most significant is the "end game" content. As soon as you've tamed the Hyenas, Outcasts and True Sons, a new threat emerges to upend your progress. The Black Tusk show up with futuristic fighting drones and heavy weaponry to knock back the Division. The battle resumes with increased intensity, which means you'll need increased firepower. At this point, you can select a signature weapon — sniper rifle, crossbow or grenade launcher — and accompanying skills.

For those seeking player vs. player action, "Division 2" brings back the contaminated Dark Zone, where loot is more valuable and fellow gamers can "go rogue" to steal the bounty from their friends. This time, there are three Dark Zones and each contains a different type of contamination and setting. And the mechanics have been tweaked to reduce the amount of grieving that appeared in the original game. For example, all players entering the Dark Zone are equalized in level and gear so everyone can compete on a level field. And going rogue has been turned into a deliberate process instead of an impulsive crime of opportunity.

Outside the Dark Zones, the game offers two more traditional styles of PVP action — a team death match and an objective-based battle.

In coming months, developers will be releasing additional zones with new missions and eight-player matches.

The links between the game and Washington go far deeper than a few events in missions. Developers did an exceptionally good job of re-creating almost everything about D.C. They rebuilt the city's buildings and monuments — and not just the famous ones — on a one-to-one scale. Everything is the right size, the right shape and in the right place, even the taco shops and burger joints, though they have all been rebranded for legal reasons. Developers also managed to capture the vibe of different areas within the city.

The game earns its mature rating because of violence and occasional cursing.

When it became apparent that two cooperative shooters were going to be launching within weeks of each other, most needed to set that the flashy "Anthem" would come out on top. However, great gameplay and a robust catalog of content made "Division 2" the real winner.

Bottom line: A

Platforms: PlayStation 4 (reviewed), Xbox One, PC

Online: tomclancy-thedivision.ubisoft.com

Ubisoft provided a copy of the game for review purposes.

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

Klassikstadt is located about three miles northeast of the Frankfurt city center.
Address: Orber Str. 4A, 60386 Frankfurt am Main

TIMES

Mondays – Saturdays: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Sundays: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

COSTS

Free; if you buy a car, up to \$1 million or so.

FOOD

Restaurant Die Werkskantine, serving lunch and dinner Monday – Saturday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

INFORMATION

Online: klassikstadt.de

— Brian Ferguson



PHOTOS BY BRIAN FERGUSON/Stars and Stripes

A 1967 Ford Mustang S-Code with a 390-cubic-inch engine sits on display at Klassikstadt in Frankfurt, Germany, on March 13. Klassikstadt, located inside the former Mayfarth agricultural machinery factory, houses hundreds of cars spanning three floors.



This race car is among the hundreds of cars on display at Klassikstadt, which houses more than 45 companies with a direct link to vintage cars, sports cars and racing.

Celebrating car culture

Klassikstadt in Frankfurt, Germany, is your one-stop shop for classic automobiles

BRIAN FERGUSON
Stars and Stripes

Even intelligent people like classic cars; however, some are embarrassed to admit it because many such cars are old, loud and guzzle enough gas to cause local station shortages.

If you want to see them, or maybe even buy one, Klassikstadt in Frankfurt, Germany, is the place to go. It is free and houses hundreds of cars spanning three floors. Inside the former Mayfarth agricultural machinery factory, there are more than 45 companies with a direct link to vintage cars, sports cars and race cars.

Upon entering, the first thing you will notice is the smell. For anyone who has owned or worked on a classic car, you will understand. It's a mixture of old vinyl, rubber and oil, but it's faint.

Spectators are greeted with two antique Rolls-Royce sedans. To the left, interested shoppers will find the McLaren and Lamborghini showrooms. Be advised, this section will make you feel poor.

If you have the money and do end up buying one of these impressive supercars, there also is a clothing store right next door. You will need a new wardrobe.

Further exploration of the building revealed an upholstery shop, a coffee shop, a bike shop, a toy store and a restaurant in the four-story building. There is more to see, but the fourth-floor door was locked



Can't afford the classics? Klassikstadt has a toy store for car enthusiasts looking for a cheaper alternative.

when I visited.

Most everything in the toy store was automobile-related, and there was a Lego section.

The second and third floors, or the first and second German floors, reveal an array of European and American classics. Owners pay to leave their vehicles and have them serviced regularly. Guests can see these highly specialized workshops that maintain and restore rare cars.

The restaurant, Die Werkskantine, was immaculate. Open for lunch and dinner, their menu has a variety of food to give you energy to tour this massive building, and the prices are not bad. There also is an elevator for individuals who can't or



A row of Lamborghinis lines the showroom floor at Klassikstadt.

won't climb stairs.

If you are in the market for a classic car, or you just want to look, Klassikstadt does not disappoint. Some of the cars are actually affordable. The 1967 Ford Mustang S-Code with a 390-cubic-inch engine was an interesting find. It was for sale, but did not have a listed price.

With so many cars in such a large building, Klassikstadt has something for everyone, even if you "don't like classic

cars." We all know you do, though.

Just remember, on the drive there with your friends, Journey might come on the radio. You probably won't sing along, but only because you're embarrassed. When you're alone, however, it's game on, because everyone likes Journey, just like everyone likes classic cars, and who can resist singing along to "Don't Stop Believing."

ferguson.brian@stripes.com

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Layers of history await in Evora, Portugal

From Romans to Moors to Portuguese kings, the proud little town of Evora is set amid the cork groves of Portugal's Alentejo region — has a big history. Just 90 minutes east of Lisbon, Evora has impressive sights — Roman ruins, a 12th-century cathedral and a macabre chapel of bones — coupled with a laid-back local scene and a hearty cuisine that makes me think of Tuscany.

From the second century BC to the fourth century AD, Evora was a Roman town important for its wealth of wheat and silver, as well as its location on a trade route to Rome. From the eighth to the 12th century, the Moors ruled Evora. During its Renaissance glory years, Evora was favored by Portuguese kings, even serving as the home of King Joao III, who presided over Portugal's peak of power (and its first decline).

Evora's walled city is compact. The main sights cluster within a five-minute walk of the main square, Praca do Giraldo — named for Giraldo the Fearless, the Christian knight who led a surprise attack and retook Evora from the Moors in 1165. As thanks, Giraldo was made governor of the town and the symbol of the city. The square served as the town's market during the Moorish period, and to this day it remains a center of commerce and controversy for country folk who come to Evora for their weekly shopping.

Radiating out from this town hub are traditionally decorated cobble streets — centuries old and protected by law. Many buildings here are trimmed with yellow, as is common for this region, and as the color is believed to repel evil spirits. Jacaranda trees — imported from South America 200 years ago — provide shade through the summer and purple flowers in the spring. Lining these streets are fine eateries and shops selling local products, including cork (everything from purses to postcards), tile, leather, ironwork, and Arraiolos rugs.

If you wander Evora, you'll see several remnants of the Roman wall that once encircled the town. But the most intact Roman ruin is up a hill, at the town's high point: 14 Corinthian columns, marking the Roman temple that once stood here. Today, open-air concerts and events are



Rick Steves

staged against this evocative temple backdrop, which is beautifully floodlit at night.

The Museum of Evora stands where the Roman forum once sprawled. An excavated section of the forum is in the museum's courtyard, surrounded by a delightful mix of Roman finds, medieval statuary and 16th-century Portuguese, Flemish, Italian and Spanish paintings. Also topping the hill is Evora's cathedral — a transitional mix of Romanesque and Gothic styles, standing on the site of a former mosque. Inside the cathedral is a 15th-century painted marble statue of a pregnant Mary. Throughout the Alentejo, people have a deeply felt affinity for this ready-to-produce-a-savior Mary. Across the aisle, a late-Renaissance Gabriel, added a century later, comes to tell Mary her baby won't be just any child. For great views of the surrounding plains, head up to the church's rooftop terrace.

While the cathedral is impressive, I prefer the more intimate Church of St. Francis, built in the 14th century by the Franciscans. The highlight here is its Chapel of Bones, where the skulls of human bones line the walls and a chorus of skulls stares blankly at you. The chapel was the work of three monks who were concerned that their society valued the wrong things. They thought the chapel would provide Evora, a town noted for its wealth in the early 1600s, with a helpful



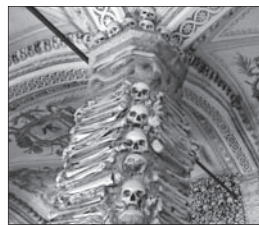
CAMERON HEWITT/Ricksteves.com

Centuries ago, the fountain in Evora's main square was an important water source.

place to meditate on the transience of material things in the undeniable presence of death. The thought-provoking message above the chapel door translates as: "We bones in here wait for yours to join us."

After meditating on mortality, it's time to return to the land of the living. For a fine slice-of-life look at this community, head to the nearby farmers market, with a fragrant fish section, fresh produce and good little eateries. Or you can pick up picnic food to eat in the pleasant public garden next to the church. If you want to try the locals' favorite pastry, queijada (sweet cheese tart), you can buy one fresh from the kiosk cafe inside the park.

Rick Steves (www.ricksteves.com) writes European travel guidebooks and hosts travel shows on public television and public radio. Email him at rick@ricksteves.com and follow his blog on Facebook.



CATHY LU/Ricksteves.com

The Chapel of Bones at the Church of St. Francis contains thousands of skulls and bones unearthed from Evora churchyards.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Late-night museum openings in Stuttgart

Stuttgart is seldom short of night life, and this Saturday during the Lange Nacht der Museen, more than 80 museums, galleries, institutions and unusual sites throughout the city offer exceptional opening hours accompanied by entertainment. The fun kicks off at 7 p.m. March 23 and winds down only at 2 a.m. the following day.

Those of eclectic tastes could check out the Siamese-twin pig named next to impossible and the Pig Museum, explore a bunker deep under the city streets and stroll through the baroque beauty of the Neues Schloss to the sounds of harp strings all in a single evening.

No matter how big one's ambitions, seeing all sights would be next to impossible and for this reason, organizers propose taking it all in by means of one or more of seven tours along specific circuits: Hafen, Wein, Neckar, Nord, West, U6 and U15. Hop-on, hop-off shuttle buses and subways link up the participating venues.

For those with children, the day starts earlier, as a handful of



Karen Bradbury

Read more about things to do in the Europe Traveler blog: stripes.com/blogs/europe-traveler

museums offer tours or workshops geared to younger tastes from 4 p.m. Places with special programs for kids include the Haus der Geschichte, ifa-Galerie, Junges Schloss, Jugendkulturschule, Sammlung LBBW, Linden-Museum, Museum am Looventor and the StadtLabor.

Tickets to Lange Nacht costs 19 euros for adults and 4 euros for those between six and 14. The pass includes the use of shuttles as well as the city's public transportation network. Those ages five and under enter free. Tickets are available at many but not

all participating museums and galleries, as well as the Tourist Information center. Most tour circuits begin and end at Karlsplatz/Schlossplatz.

Online: lange-nacht.de

Spring Days in Italy

For nearly three decades, the first weekend of spring in Italy has been synonymous with an initiative of FAI, otherwise known as the Fondo Ambiente Italiano: Giornate di Primavera, or Spring Days. Over these two days, native Italians, temporary residents and tourists alike are provided with the enviable opportunity to see Italy's hidden and not-so-hidden treasures, from chapels to country manors and other civic spaces. At many of these places, these dates represent rare opportunities for public access.

Well over a thousand places in all will be opening their doors to visitors March 23 and 24.

Visitors themselves decide how much they wish to pay for admission. Suggested amounts range from 3 to 5 euros for each site visited. Another alternative is joining FAI in its mission to tend to the country's vast cul-

tural riches; membership costs 29 euros for a single person for the year, while a family membership goes for 66 euros. Members enjoy discounts and exclusive opening times.

To see what's open near you, download FAI's app or use the interactive map online. A sampling of participating venues not far from U.S. bases includes Chiesa consacrata di San Valentino in Vicenza, the Palazzo Dogliotti detto il Botegon in Belluno, or the Sortino Diruto in Siracusa. Some sites suggest making reservations by email or advise of openings reserved exclusively for FAI members.

Online: tinyurl.com/yj5fscul

New Year in Tuscany

In Tuscany? Experience the New Year in spring as a pair of cities look back upon the dates when their changes of year were traditionally celebrated.

The date of March 25 coincides with the church holiday known as the Feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary, and was considered the start of the New Year in Florence and the end of the old one in Pisa. In 1749, Grand-Duke Francesco

II of Lorraine put a stop to this form of rivalry between Tuscan towns by official decree.

Modern-day celebrations in Florence include a historical procession of the Florentine Republic from Palazzo Vecchio to the Basilica of Santissima Annunziata, where pilgrims would flock to marvel at a miraculous fresco depicting the Virgin, whose face, according to legend, had been painted by the hand of angels. A concert at the basilica is also offered free on the day.

The parade starts at 3:15 p.m. and the entourage enters the basilica for the concert at 4 p.m. Online: tinyurl.com/y4pbl73

Pisa too has rediscovered its ancient practices, and the day is now a folk holiday in its own right. From March 23-25, the city recognizes the coming of 2020 with restaurants serving up traditional menus, presentation of the new historical costumes for participants in the city's most important historical pageants, medieval games and other activities.

Many of these festivities are geared toward the local population rather than mass tourism. Online: tinyurl.com/y3cxcx2am

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe



PHOTOS BY AARON KNOWLES/Stars and Stripes

Customers at the Graveyard Burger Guys food truck order their food March 12. Graveyard Burger offers a simple, but customizable, menu with many toppings and side dish options.

After Hours: Germany

BY AARON KNOWLES
Stars and Stripes

Really good burger is pretty hard to find in Europe, but the Graveyard Burger Guys have you covered.

Located halfway between North Clay and Clay Kaserne in Wiesbaden, the unassuming food truck offers more than meets the eye.

With a short list of just four burgers and three side dishes, the menu doesn't seem impressive, but the ability to customize your burger is. You have the choice to add things like jalapenos, bacon or even a fried egg. Beyond the build-your-own burger, there are more drink choices on the menu than there are food options.

Graveyard Burger Guys, which has a covered seating area, opens at 11 a.m. Monday through Friday, which is perfect for a quick lunch.

The burgers are large, freshly cooked and juicy. They are served on a homemade brioche bun, stacked high with customizable toppings and smothered in a selection of celebrity-named sauces. The Norma Jean topping, for example, has sweet mustard, cress and mascarpone sauce, adding smoothness to whichever burger style is selected.

The prices at Graveyard Burger Guys are very appealing considering the freshness of the food. A combo deal, which adds their excellent seasoned fries and a drink, runs 11.90 euros. The most expensive of the four burgers, the James Dean, will run you 8.90 euros a la carte.

The only problem with dining at a food cart is the lack of protection from the elements. The entrance will remind you of entering a tent during a deployment. There are picnic tables with attached seating and only three walls.

If the Guys do not have their heaters on, you will not be comfortable. It's best to check it out when it isn't windy or cold.

knowles.aaron@stripes.com
Twitter: @AKStripes

GRAVEYARD
BURGER GUYS

Address: Mittlepfad 7, 65205 WI-Erbenheim
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Prices: \$8-\$10
Dress: Casual
Website: graveyardburgerguys.business.site
Phone: 0160 94400222

— Aaron Knowles



The James Dean burger, from the Graveyard Burger Guys, is served on a bed of deliciously seasoned, fresh-cut fries.



The only downside to the Graveyard Burger Guys food truck is the cold, hard seating area.

Made-in-minutes microwave lemon curd a game-changer

BY MARIA SPECK
Special to The Washington Post

When I was growing up in Germany and Greece, satiny lemon curd was never on our table. In fact, I had not even heard of it before moving to the states. But it did not take long to find myself gushing over images of this smooth, spreadable custard in cookbooks and magazines. Its vivid color and glistening shine were tantalizing: I absolutely had to try it.

I was not yet an adventurous food writer when I spent what felt like forever stirring and monitoring the rich butter and egg mixture on the stove. Using a double boiler, with no food thermometer on hand, I had many questions: Was it done yet? How would I know? Will I get the gentle heat just right? Or will I go too far and scramble the eggs, destroying the sublime treat?

While my first lemon curd did turn out lovely, all that fretting made me never want to try again. Given its richness, with all the butter, sugar and egg yolks, lemon curd was something I did not miss much, either — until this winter, when beautiful organic Meyer lemons arrived at my grocer's.

I also had happened to hear about a curd recipe done in the microwave. A quick internet search revealed a bounty of microwave curd recipes.

I have since learned that you



TOM MCCONKLE/For The Washington Post

Meyer Lemon and Olive Oil Curd can be quickly and easily made.

can cook just about any citrus curd in the microwave in mere minutes. It is so easy and effortless, chances are you will never buy a jar again. Best of all, you won't be stuck with leftover egg whites because you can use whole eggs to make it.

My basic recipe for a super-easy citrus curd in the microwave uses aromatic Meyer lemons, which are rounder and sweeter than the common Eureka lemons.

I have included two flavor variations: a tart lemon curd that is puckery in the best of ways, and a pleasing orange curd. Each batch makes about $\frac{3}{4}$ cup.

Spread your homemade curd on a slice of toast or in a breakfast croissant; spoon it into yogurt and on dark chocolate ice cream. Citrus curd freezes well, which means you can have it on hand long after Meyer lemon season is over.

MEYER LEMON AND OLIVE OIL CURD

2 to 3 servings (makes $\frac{3}{4}$ cup)

This recipe can easily be doubled. A double batch will take a few minutes longer to cook, about 5 minutes, depending on the strength of your microwave.

To make tart lemon curd and an orange curd (sweeter than the lemon curd), see the variations below.

The curd can be refrigerated for up to 1 week, and frozen for at least 1 month; defrost in the refrigerator overnight.

Ingredients

2 or 3 Meyer lemons, preferably organic (250 grams)
2 tablespoons plus $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon (50 grams) mild honey
3 tablespoons (40 grams) extra-virgin olive oil, a mild fruity one, such as Trader Joe's Greek Kalamata
1 large egg, at room temperature

$\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon fine sea salt

Instructions

Finely grate the lemons, avoiding the bitter white pith, until you have 1 tablespoon plus $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons of zest. Juice the lemons, straining the seeds, until you have $\frac{1}{2}$ cup plus 1 tablespoon juice (90 grams).

Whisk together the honey and oil in a medium microwave-safe bowl, then whisk in the egg, lemon zest, juice and salt until smooth. Don't worry if the honey hasn't completely dissolved at this point.

Set your microwave at 50 percent power. Heat the mixture for 1 minute, then stop to whisk and scrape around the sides of the bowl. Repeat, then continue heating and checking every 30 seconds, whisking and scraping in between; the mixture will foam and gradually thicken. The custard is done once it coats the back of a wooden spoon and a path remains when you slide your finger across. This should take about 3 minutes total, depending on the power of your microwave. The temperature of the custard should register at least 170 degrees on an instant-read thermometer. (This is hot enough to cook the egg.)

Let cool in the bowl for about 15 minutes, whisking a few times. Strain the curd through a fine-mesh strainer for a super-smooth silky spread.

Spoon the curd into an 8-ounce glass jar. Chill, uncovered, until completely cool, then seal the lid.

Variations

To make a tart lemon curd, replace the Meyer lemons in the basic recipe above with 2 medium lemons (250 grams). Use 1 tablespoon more honey for a total of 3 tablespoons plus $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons at the start (70 grams).

To make an orange curd, replace the Meyer lemons in the basic recipe above with 1 medium orange plus $\frac{1}{2}$ small orange (250 grams).

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

KNOW & GO

Messors

Online: messors.com
Three workshops are scheduled for 2019: Art Restoration and Conservation, June 29-July 12, about \$3,420; Fomello Cave Project, Aug. 7-18, \$2,000; Shepherds and Food Culture, Aug. 23-30, about \$2,800. Prices are per person and include lodging, all activities and most meals. Express buses run from Naples to the nearby town of Altamura. A high-speed train goes from Rome to Bari. From there, one can take a local train to Gravina in Puglia.

of a long-abandoned church and burial ground. We proceeded up a hill another mile or so as the late June sun got hotter. Tonio and Jennifer pointed out the bounty. We tasted the fruit of a quince tree, a bay tree, wild rosemary and arugula. Tonio took a rock and cracked open some almonds from an almond tree; they tasted like butter. Even the most notable and strange feature of the landscape — the tiny white garden snails proliferating on plants, posts and pretty much everywhere — were, potentially, food; a Puglian delicacy is snails with mint.

Our destination was Botromagno, a settlement from roughly 2,600 years ago that was a hub of traffic and trade because of its proximity to the Apennian Way. No structures remained, but the ground was covered in pottery shards, loom weights and other artifacts, some with painted designs still visible. We all went collecting the pieces and Tonio assessed them with a practiced eye. “That one’s Roman ... Neolithic ... sixth century B.C.”

It was tempting to pocket the pieces, but Jennifer said that was against the law. We all returned our bounty to her, for donation to a local antiquity museum.

The most helpful training for our work with the frescoes came a couple of days later, when we all made frescoes of our own in a makeshift studio in the barn of a nearby “masseria,” or farmhouse.

“Fresco” derives from the Italian word for fresh, and the basis of the form is applying pigment to fresh, wet plaster.

The “giornata” is the portion of the fresco that can be completed in one day,” Tonio said.

“And that’s what we have today, one day.”

For my design, I chose a sunflower, a la Vincent van Gogh. Some of my fellow participants worked from a sketch, or a cartoon they’d drawn, but I chose to apply the pigment (powder mixed with water) with a free hand.

The result wasn’t a masterpiece, by a long shot, but it taught me one key thing about this art form: The pigment penetrates deep into the plaster, meaning that a fresco is durable, and even if it scuffs a little deeper than one means to scrape, it’s unlikely that much damage will be done.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

Art work

Program in Italy combines sightseeing with preservation of ancient treasures

By BEN YAGODA

Special to The Washington Post

“It’s OK,” I asked, “to put my hand here?” “Here” was Jesus’ brown hair, on a 700-year-old fresco of the crucifixion, in a cave church in Puglia, Italy. In the fresco, Jesus’ eyes were depicted as closed, giving the portrait an oddly serene feel. My task at the moment was to use a scalpel to scrape away calcium deposits on the right eye (a spider was sitting on the left one), and I needed to ground my hand on the fresco to get good leverage.

Tonio Creanza glanced over from the fresco he was working on. “Sure,” he said.

So I started scraping.

That someone like me — well-meaning but completely untrained and unskilled — would be applying a razor-sharp instrument to an ancient treasure is due, entirely, to Creanza, a 50-year-old George Clooney look-alike who hails from the Puglian town of Altamura. In 1989, he launched a summer workshop designed to bring in volunteers to work on preserving and celebrating some of the treasures of his native region.

The idea has grown over the years. Today, Messors — the organization he runs with his wife, Canadian-born Jennifer Bell — offers several workshops over the course of each summer. In three of them, the emphasis is on preserving and restoring ancient frescoes and Renaissance paint-



PHOTOS BY BEN YAGODA/For The Washington Post

Tonio Creanza, founder and director of Messors, gestures near a fresco in the crypt of Carpentino in Altamura, Italy. Top: A detail of the crucifixion fresco, which was made in the 15th century.

ings; in other, participants repair shepherds’ fences, make pecorino cheese from the milk of the sheep and learn to bake the characteristically yellow-hued local bread.

My wife, Gigi, a committed Italophile, had always harbored a dream of doing art-restoration work in her favorite country, and landed on the Messors website while looking around for a way to do so. She was enthusiastic, I was game, and so one day late in June we found ourselves on a four-hour bus ride from Naples southeast to Altamura. Tonio’s university-student nephew, Marco, picked us up on the side of the road and drove us the short distance to Messors’ rented

“palazzo” — essentially, a very large four-story townhouse in the middle of the nearby town of Gravina in Puglia, population approximately 44,000.

We and the other 12 participants — from the United States, Canada, the Philippines, Singapore, Denmark and Belgium — slept in the palazzo for the 16 days of our programs, some sharing bedrooms and bathrooms, others not. (The second category included Gigi and me, presumably because of our married status and because, in our 60s, we were the oldest members of the group.) And we took most of our meals buffet-style in the large, elegant dining room on the second floor. They were prepared

by Jennifer, Tonio, Marco and other members of the family, using exclusively local ingredients. (Four or five nights, we ate out at restaurants in Gravina in Puglia; the cost of the meals was included in the program fee.)

Dinner the first night set a high bar. We had a frittata di maccheroni (a sort of pasta omelet), bruschetta, marinated mushrooms and artichokes, burrata, rolled eggplant, hot and cold sausage, arugula ricotta, fresh cheese with walnut, and tiramisu. It was accompanied by local red wine, some of that yellow Puglia bread, and olive oil produced by the Creanza family for six generations. And it was all incredibly good.

As Tonio likes to say, “It’s all about the food.”

Those words were in my mind the next morning as the group set out for a walk that gave us the lay of the land. Just a couple of blocks from the palazzo, an older couple was sitting in the shaded doorway of a house, selling figs from their garden out of a crate. Tonio explained that these are the early summer figs, the green-skinned “fiaroni,” not to be confused with the early-autumn variety. I asked for three, which the man indicated would cost half a euro (about 55 cents), but he threw in two more at no charge.

I was munching on the sweet and juicy figs with relish as we came to the edge of the town and took a bridge across a ravine — “gravina” in Italian, hence the name of the town — to the site

FROM PAGE 30

The next day, when we started our restoration work, that lesson proved valuable, as it prevented me from being intimidated by the prospect of applying a scalpel to centuries-old artwork. Our first work was at Carpentino, an underground church dug out of soft limestone, like more than a hundred other "rupestri" in the region. It has 15th-century Franciscan frescoes, including the closed-eyes Jesus. Twenty years ago, Tonio came upon the cave while exploring in the area. He was met by the landowner, who was understandably alarmed at this trespasser on his property and who was holding a shotgun. They reached an agreement whereby Messors could work to improve the site, as long as the program asked for no accommodation or compensation.

Carpentino was one of three sites we worked on. Another was Jesce, a 16th-century farmhouse turned monastery whose most striking feature, to me, was the abundant graffiti carved into the plaster walls over the centuries. In one spot, you could clearly read "Francesco Paolo Rossi, 1713."

The third was Fornello, a large underground cave church containing three layers of byzantine frescoes produced during the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries. Tonio owns the land surrounding Fornello, and he has his work cut out for him in preserving and restoring the site. It is open to the elements; we walked right in through an opening in the ground. The problem is the rain and moisture, which causes calcification deposits to form on the frescoes.

Tonio's ultimate goal is to secure the site and waterproof the ceiling, but that is many years and thousands of euros away. For now, the volunteers fight a rear-guard action, scraping away at the sometimes stubborn deposits with their scalpels. The work is slow, but it was gratifying when even two or three square inches of fresco emerged with stronger color and lines. And sometimes the progress was dramatic. One day, Gigi scraped and scraped at one part of a wall. When she stepped back, she realized she had uncovered an image of a previously obscured bird.

As the days passed — broken up by trips to the ancient cave city of Matera, just over the border in Basilicata; to a beautiful Puglian beach; an overnight journey to Pompeii and Naples; and other destinations — the frescoes at Fornello, Campertino and Jesce became gradually but noticeably clearer.

That was satisfying. Equally so was settling into the rhythms of Gravina in Puglia, which we found to be the perfect town to spend a couple of weeks in. In the morning there was the sound of church bells ringing and the sight of swallows divebombing through the empty streets. After a breakfast featuring the remnants of last night's bread with fresh butter and homemade jam, we would head to a morning of work in the caves, returning to another lunch featuring delicacies such as seafood risotto and fried stuffed zucchini flowers. Afterward, there was time for a nap or just some reading before an afternoon of work, then another great meal.

RESTAURANT DIRECTORY



GERMANY



KAISERSLAUTERN	BAVARIA	STUTTGART	RHEIN MAIN
Zimtblüte asian food Call 0631-58047 for Pick-Up Orders Tue-Sun 11am-9pm Mon Closed Weilerbacher Str. 110 67661 Kaiserslautern	 BOHM Neue Amberger Straße 39 92655 Grafenwöhr 09641 9369-0 • www.hotelboehm.de	 Kashmir authentic indian cuisine STUTTGART Morchelstr. 39 • Phone 0711-88 94 94 ECHTERDINGEN Esslinger Str. 11 • Phone 0714-99 26 36 LEONBERG Leimbacher Str. 17 • Phone 07142-90 32 Hours: 12:00 - 1:40 and 17:30 - 12:00	 Creme Experience Germany's Finest Beer and Authentic German Cuisine www.brahaus-castel.de Otto Sahn Ring 27 55233 Mainz-Kastel Tel. 06134-24999 Open daily from 11:00 - 24:00
 COCKTAIL CASINO HAPPY HOUR ENCHI Hour Schillerplatz 3-5 67655 Kaiserslautern 0631 3702 7570 www.Enchilada-Kaiserslautern.de	 Caribbean Grill Savor the Flavor of the Islands Dietfurter Str. 18 92655 Grafenwöhr 0152-58961759 Fr. - Sa 17:00 - 22:00 Caribbean Dishes • Side Salads • Desserts	 TRIPLE B Two Locations: Hohenloherstraße 8 70435 Stuttgart and Markenstrasse 28 70178 Stuttgart TRIPLE B • High Quality Burgers www.beef-burger-brothers.de	 Mayflower China Restaurant Open daily 11:30 - 15:00 & 17:30 - 23:30 USD accepted - Master Card/Visa Tel. 06134- 258938 Uthmann Strasse 8, Mainz-Kostheim
 CANTINA MEXICANA Kaiserstr. 117 67661 Kaiserslautern-Einsiedlerhof 0631-99328 www.cantina-mexicana.com	 Anastasia Greek Specialties Im Marktwinkel 1, 92655 Grafenwöhr 09641-929285 www.anastasia-grafenwoehr.de	 olio e pane OUTLETGITY METZINGEN Linderpl. 5, 72555 Metzingen +49 (0)7123 38 11 61, Opening Hours: Mon - Sat 11:30am - 10pm	
 Trattoria Da Salvatore Lindstedt Ketteler Bergstr. Party-arena Büfen Home Delivery Service! 06371-8497 Friedrichstr. 10447 Lindstedt • www.trattoria-da-salvatore.com	 IRISH PUB GRAFENWÖHR Marktplatz 33 92655 Grafenwöhr 09641 / 91 68 622 info@irishpub-grafenwoehr.de	 STADT CAFE Holzgerlingen Breakfast - Lunch Daily Special Coffee & Cake Homemade Ice Cream Sunday Breakfast Turmstr. 6 71088 Holzgerlingen 07031 414777 www.stadtcafe.de Opening Times Mo-Fr 8:30am to 7pm Sa 9am to 6pm Sun 9am to 7pm	

HOTEL DIRECTORY



GERMANY



 BOHM Neue Amberger Straße 39 92655 Grafenwöhr • 09641 9369-0 www.hotelboehm.de	 COURTYARD Marriott WIESBADEN NORDENSTADT Book Direct! On www.courtyard-wiesbaden.com Use your Marriott credit and get room rewards! Opening 9:00 Wiesbaden +49 (0)622 807 0 M reservations@courtyard-wiesbaden.com W www.courtyard-wiesbaden.com	 PULLMAN HOTELS AND RESORTS STUTTGART FORNBERG Vollmoellerstrasse 5 • 70563 VAIHINGEN - STUTTGART T: +49 71 780 0-1 F: +49 71 780 2522 E: h4@pullman.com BOOK TODAY 0711 730 2300	 EDELWEISS LODGE AND RESORT
 HOTEL AM SEE HOTEL • GRILL • BAR Kirchenhumbacher Str. 36 • 92676 Eschenbach Tel.: +49 (0)9645-8444 Email: Hotelamsee@usa.net • www.HotelamSee.de	Hotel Forsthaus by Garmisch Free Breakfast, Family Apartments Hot Tub, Sauna, Dogs Welcome, American/German Owned, 36 EUR/Person, Double Occupancy, Per Night. Tel: 08824-9120 • Email: hotel@forsthaus-oberau.de VAT Forms accepted • www.forsthaus-oberau.de	 Hotel Villa Just 3 Minutes from Rose Barracks Amberger Str. 9 • 92249 Vilseck E-Mail: hotel-villa@toll.de Tel.: +49 (0) 9662/42070 www.hotel-villa-vilseck.de	

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

To Japan, with love



Mr. Fuji Ecotours/TNS

Above: Shiraito Falls, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is one of the pleasures that await visitors near Mt. Fuji. Top inset: Mt. Fuji. Bottom inset: Owaku-Dani Valley, in 2013.

The land of civility offers much for visiting Americans to see, learn

By GEORGE HORICA
Tribune News Service

Whenever I fly a long distance, I read a book or two rather than watching the in-flight movies and TV shows. I didn't do it intentionally, but, the two books I brought on my recent trip to Japan, neither of which mentions Japan, helped me understand why I was going there again.

By the time I landed I had read "Talk to the Hand," which bemoans the lack of civility and mutual respect in modern life, and "How to Travel," which tries to explain why travelers choose to visit one country over another.

In "Talk to the Hand," author Lynne Truss, who previously wrote "Eats, Shoots & Leaves," a book on punctuation that has sold more than 3 million copies worldwide, decries people who talk long after the movie has started, groups of friends sauntering four abreast on the sidewalk, people spewing vulgarities in public, and other incivilities too numerous to mention or rail against. Amen to all that.

In "How to Travel," the anonymous author explains that, "Every destination has a character. It emphasizes and promotes a particular aspect of human nature. The destination we are drawn to reflects an underlying sense of what is missing in our lives. We are seeking to become fuller, more complete beings. The place should teach us lessons that we know we need to hear."

Both books got me to thinking about why I like Japan: What aspect of human nature does Japan emphasize? What does Japan's culture have to teach me? What is missing in my life, in our lives, that Japan could offer? After several visits, I began to figure it out: Wherever you go, Japan is well-mannered, polite, kind: on the trains

and in the airports, in the cities, and in the mountains. Even when you visit a post office.

Standing on the platform as our Shinkansen glided into the station, I noticed that the driver was wearing his hat and I wondered why. Surely he doesn't wear it between stations? He makes the gesture for the same reason that the conductors on these trains bow ceremoniously upon entering and leaving the coaches. When I was in the Japan Airlines lounge on my departure from Tokyo, I noticed the phone booths without phones in them. They're used for making mobile phone calls without disturbing other passengers; but they can also be used, I noted, by a mom with a wailing baby. In she goes, and the baby's cacophony is no longer an issue.

In her book on manners, Truss, who is English, decries the rudeness of London shop assistants and describes the typical dynamic this way:

Shopper: "Excuse me, do you work here?"

Clerk: "What?"

Shopper: "I said, excuse me, do you work here?"

Clerk: "Not if I can help it. Har, har, har."

Contrast that to my visit to the Japan post office. A clerk called out a greeting ("Welcome to the post office!" according to Sumiyo, my friend and translator). I paid for some stamps and expected to take my postcards and be on my way. But this is Japan, so, no. The clerk carefully detached the stamps along their perforations, moistened them, and with equal care affixed them to my mail. And then he thanked me. And I thanked him. And as I exited, he thanked me again for visiting the post office.

In between noticing Japanese manners, I managed to see some of the countryside around Mount Fuji, about an hour's train ride from Tokyo. I climbed part way up Mount Fuji (you don't have to go far to see scenery worth

the effort); I visited the Itchiku Kubota Art Museum, which owns 80 beautiful tie-dyed silk kimonos that were Kubota's lifelong passion.

Early one morning, I visited Shiraito Falls, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A monsoon had blown in the day before my arrival, so a dozen or more chutes gushed and roared into a small lake. I was the only one to witness this spectacle when I stumbled upon it. Eventually, a few people trickled in, and had it not been for these interlopers, I would have stayed longer. How often do you get to enjoy a World Heritage Site all by yourself?

After a long day of hiking, I arrived at the Kaneyama Hotel, where my room came with a large private onsen — a plunge bath fed by hot springs — on the room's terrace, from which there was a view of Mount Fuji. I was neck deep 60 seconds after the man who showed me to my room had left. I rushed back from dinner so I could marinate in it again in the moonlight. And I steeped in it again before breakfast the following morning. I couldn't have asked for a simpler pleasure.

The Hakone region percolates with some of Japan's best hot springs, a gift from the Earth's molten core. Some of that gift is less pleasant than my onsen was; you'll see why when you take a cable car ride over the Owaku-dani Valley, dotted with active vents of sulfurous steam escaping and hissing throughout the volcanic landscape. Owaku-dani translates as the "valley of hell." I couldn't have said it better myself.

For a more pleasant landscape, I took a bike ride with En-Ya Mt. Fuji Ecotours (mfujiecotours.com) through the farm country around Mount Fuji, along roads empty of people and vehicles, the only sounds provided by chirping birds and water rushing along irrigation canals and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Pacific

FROM PAGE 32

small streams. My friends and I encountered a very old woman wearing a quilted lavender kimono, shuffling along in the middle of the road. She greeted us by spontaneously singing some folk songs about the joys of the nature in these parts. Her impromptu concert finished, she smiled, bowed, and sent us off with a “domo domo” (which means different things depending on the context, but each time I used the expression later in my trip people laughed; I’m still not sure why).

I toured the Naurkawa Art Museum (underrated in the Michelin Green Guide to Japan, I think) and the Yukio Mishima Museum (overrated, I think, in the same guide, at least for those of us who don’t read Japanese). I stayed one night at the lovely Hyatt Regency Hakone, where the free happy hour included real French Champagne (highly rated, by me).

When I returned to Tokyo I spent two nights at the Park Hyatt Tokyo, the hotel that shares top billing with Bill Murray and Scarlett Johansson in Sophia Coppola’s Academy Award-winning film “Lost in Translation.”

That Saturday night, a friend and I had one of those magical experiences that make life grand: sitting by the window in the hotel’s New York Bar, the Tokyo skyline glittering 52 floors below, while we snacked and sipped cocktails and listened to the resident jazz quintet.

Nearly 30 million foreigners visited Japan in 2018, and last year the country was anointed as the “it” destination by Travel and Leisure magazine. Now the Japanese media are using words such as “tourism pollution” (their version of overtourism).

But regions not far from Tokyo looked like they could use more tourists, not fewer. I thought during the 35-mile, hounding drive from Tokyo to Narita Airport. As I looked out the window, I noticed there was no graffiti on bridge overpasses or on the concrete retaining walls. And not because they had been painted over, in the way that tags are religiously blotted out in a quilt of gray patches along Los Angeles’ freeways.

Japan might be one of the few graffiti-free countries left. And I noticed there wasn’t a single bit of trash along the highway. Why can’t every country show such respect for others and for the environment? I hope many of this year’s visitors to Japan will ask the same question and bring home a better way of treating others.



PHOTOS BY AYA ICHIHASHI/Stars and Stripes

With a Mexican restaurant on one side and a cafe on the other, La Polleria Pipeline Coffee combines two distinct concepts into one business. It’s housed inside a former antiques shop.



The morning set is served with a sunny-side up egg, bacon, salad, soup, a basic drink and bread.



The breakfast burrito might be a bit smaller than American appetites are used to.



La Polleria Pipeline also sells bread made by Cactus Eatrrip, a popular bakery on Okinawa.

After Hours: Okinawa

By AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

American foodies often plan their restaurant outings around those owned by hip, young chefs or eateries with high praise on Yelp. But in Japan, the hottest trend is dining out at restaurants and cafes where both the meal and the decor is “instabae.”

You might be more familiar with instabae by its English translation, “Instagrammable” — a popular term describing something emblematic of the aesthetics that generate lots of “likes” on the popular photo-sharing app Instagram.

On Okinawa, a small cafe in the Ginowan area is embracing Japan’s instabae obsession by serving up delicious breakfast and lunch fare in a stylish, yet homey setting.

In fact, it was thanks to Instagram that I decided to visit La Polleria Pipeline Coffee in the first place, as photos of the cafe’s uniquely Okinawan take on Mexican comfort foods caught my eye.

Housed inside a former antique shop, La Polleria Pipeline Coffee combines two distinct concepts into one business: La Polleria is the restaurant side, known for its massive breakfast burritos and rotisserie chicken; Pipeline Coffee is the cafe side, serving up espresso drinks and fresh baked goods.

This concept seems to be a hit with the locals, as La Polleria Pipeline is almost always packed with guests. The decor, with wood flooring and Mexican-inspired artwork, provide an appealing backdrop for social media-worthy snapshots.

On the day of my visit, the breakfast special happened to be breakfast burritos — so

my companion and I ordered the burrito set (1,000 yen, or about \$9) and the restaurant’s morning set (1,000 yen). We added an iced latte for an additional 100 yen.

La Polleria Pipeline’s morning set is served with a sunny-side up egg, bacon, salad, soup, a basic drink and a choice of sweet or savory bread made by Cactus Eatrrip — a bakery popular with locals and servicemembers.

I opted for the chorizo bread, but for those who can’t choose just one, additional bread can be purchased for 400 yen. The bread was fresh and chewy, and definitely the standout of the morning set. The dough was complemented nicely by the salty chorizo sausage.

The breakfast burrito might be a bit smaller than American appetites are used to, but for Okinawa, the portion was quite large. It was filled with shredded rotisserie chicken, creamy mashed potatoes and chili con carne. Although mashed potatoes in a breakfast burrito might sound weird, it was the perfect complement to the rest of the fillings. The restaurant’s hot sauce provided a spicy kick to the meal.

I was particularly pleased with the iced latte, which had a strong aroma but wasn’t too bold or bitter.

“La Polleria” means “chicken restaurant” in Spanish — and La Polleria Pipeline definitely delivers on that front. For lunch and dinner, diners can choose from rotisserie chicken plates (half a chicken for 1,350 yen or a full chicken for 2,500 yen), as well as Tacos Del Pastor (1,000 yen) and Mexican sandwiches (1,200 yen). For those looking to unwind after a long day, the restaurant’s mojito (900 yen) is a popular option.

LA POLLERIA
PIPELINE COFFEE

Location: 2-23-1 Oyama, Ginowan City, Okinawa, 901-2223

Hours: Monday through Saturday: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for lunch and 6 p.m. to midnight for dinner; Sunday: 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. for breakfast and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. for lunch/dinner
Prices: Most plates start at 1,000 yen, while drinks start at 350 yen.

Dress: Casual

Directions: From Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, exit the main gate and continue down the hill. Turn left on Pipe Line Street, which runs parallel to Route 58. The restaurant will be on the right after a kilometer.

Information: [instagram.com/lapolleria_pipelinecoffee/](https://www.instagram.com/lapolleria_pipelinecoffee/)

— Aya Ichihashi

No time to dine in? No problem, as La Polleria Pipeline does to-go orders, too. Parking is a bit tough to find, but there is ample signage to direct diners to the right spot by the restaurant.

If you’d like to dine with your furry friend, the restaurant’s patio is pet-friendly.

La Polleria Pipeline is a great option for anything from a quick bite to a long Sunday breakfast or brunch. And it just might make its way to your Instagram feed, too.

ichihashi.aya@stripes.com



STARS AND STRIPES

What's Your Story? Month of the Military Child

Let's Celebrate by Sharing Your Story!

Stories will be...

- Featured on our new website militarychild.stripes.com.
- Published selectively in our Global Edition in April.
- Printed in Stars and Stripes Pacific's community papers.

Submit Today: militarychild.stripes.com



LAKELAND UNIVERSITY JAPAN

WEEKEND: LIFESTYLE

BY KATHERINE ROTH
Associated Press

In an age of screens and keyboarding, when kids hardly learn cursive anymore, fountain pens — along with their old-timey accoutrements like blotters, bottled ink and fancy nibs — are making a comeback. There are jazzy new colors and styles, and an array of affordable options.

It's a trend driven less by nostalgic baby boomers than by an eco- and fashion-conscious younger set, many of them drawn to the analog attractions of pens, ink and paper.

"Interest in fountain pens has really taken off in the 10 years we've been in business, especially among people ages 20 to 35," says Brian Goulet, who owns the online site The Goulet Pen Company with his wife, Rachel.

"Back in the '90s and 2000s, what was the rage was expensive, limited-edition Montblanc and other luxury brands," he says. "What's happened is that with the rise of social media and entry-level fountain pens, a lot of companies have come out with pens in wild colors and styles."

Whereas standard ink colors were once limited to black or blue, colors now have evocative names like California Teal or Azurite, and the inks have features like quick-drying options, sparkles and sophisticated sheens.

Kathleen Desaye, manager of the Goods for the Study stationery store in the SoHo neighborhood of New York, said, "We just started a fountain pen club due to customer demand. The club meets once a month, and people can bring in their fountain pen collections or favorite inks and just share their love of pens."

Goulet, who has posted over 2,000 fountain-pen-related YouTube videos, is something of a rock star of the fountain pen world. He spoke by phone from Tokyo, where he was attending the 100th anniversary celebration of the Japanese fountain pen company Platinum, some of whose pens feature delicate, traditional designs like koi or autumn leaves.

"I started out as a pen turner, making wood rollerball pens by hand. But as soon as I discovered this fountain pen world, I started plugging into the community, posting videos that I hoped would be helpful to them, and building trust and loyalty among people passion-

ate about fountain pens," Goulet says. "We now have a company of 40 people and a real following."

He points out that fountain pens are a visual product, well served by social media platforms like YouTube, Reddit and Instagram. There's a SubReddit for fountain pens, complete with its own lingo: "fps" is short for fountain pens and "npd" stands for new pen day, the day a person purchases a new fountain pen.

Some examples of coveted fountain pens include clear models, where you can see the ink sloshing around; fancy Italian models by the Florence-based Visconti company (their "Homo Sapiens Bronze Age" fountain pen is made from hardened basaltic lava from the Mount Etna volcano in Italy); and Taiwanese-made TWSBI pens that come in limited-edition color schemes.

"Fountain pens seem to be a weird thing that people find themselves getting into," Goulet says. "The beauty of it is that these days you can have literally one person in their garage who wants to make an interesting fountain pen. People will stumble upon it and boom, you're a brand."

LAMY, a fashion-forward, family-owned fountain pen company based in Heidelberg, Germany, opened boutiques in San Francisco and New York City last year.

"People have a real passion for fountain pens now," says Sam Agyemang, general manager for both LAMY boutiques. "They can be Zero Waste if you use bottled ink, which is important these days. They're ergonomic and really well-designed. And they're a great fashion accessory. You can have a few styles and colors of fountain pens to go with various outfits. They really make a statement."

"As we move toward this technological zeitgeist, there's nothing better than the trifecta of a fountain pen in your hand, good paper and your thoughts," says Agyemang.

Not only can fountain pens be inexpensive, Goulet says, but other stubborn misperceptions about them should also be shelved.

"They don't have to be messy and they won't explode in your pocket when you get on an airplane," he says. "But the most common question I get when I start talking about fountain pens, is: 'They still exist?'"

IN FULL FLOW

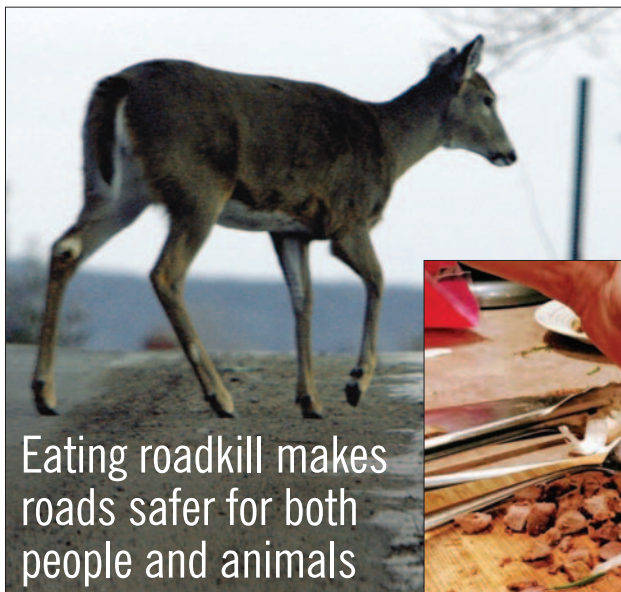
In our computerized age, the humble fountain pen — all jazzed up — is making a comeback

LAMY's aion fountain pen is constructed from solid aluminum and features a stainless spring-loaded clip.

COURTESY OF LAMY/AP



WEEKEND: LIFESTYLE



Eating roadkill makes roads safer for both people and animals

By MATT VASIOGAMBROS
Stateline.org

It's taco night at the Lindskoog household in Nampa, Idaho, a suburban community 20 miles west of Boise. Nate Lindskoog has seasoned the red meat sizzling in his cast-iron skillet with a mixture of chili powder and Himalayan pink salt. In a few minutes, he will wrap it in corn tortillas and top it off with lime-soaked avocados.

The 36-year-old father of six isn't making carne asada with meat he bought from a butcher or at the grocery store. Instead, he's searing venison from a deer killed by a car on Lake Avenue.

"That is just fine," he said, taking a bite of the cilantro- and onion-garnished taco. "I've had worse tacos in restaurants that were \$10. This was free, laying on the side of the road."

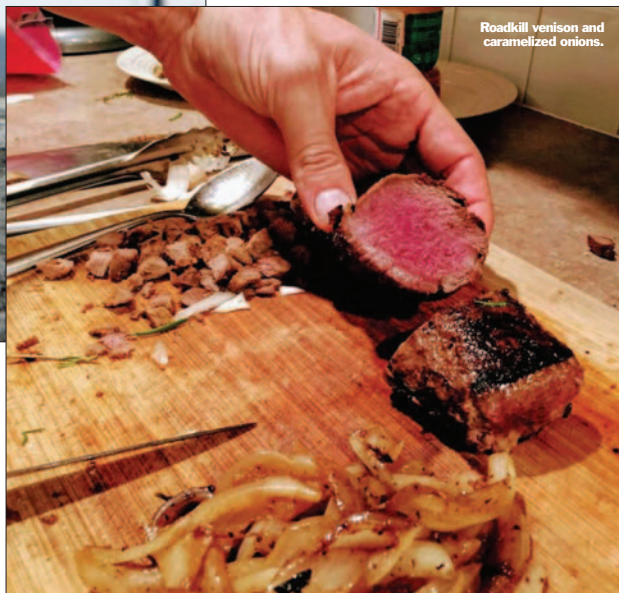
Between 1 million and 2 million large animals are hit by vehicles every year in the United States in accidents that kill 200 people and cost nearly \$8.4 billion in damages, according to estimates from the Federal Highway Administration.



In the mountains just north of Boise, drivers are warned about crossing deer and elk. Idaho is one of many states that have legalized roadkill salvaging.

PHOTOS BY MATT VASIOGAMBROS,
PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS/TNS

Road to Table



Roadkill venison and caramelized onions.

Instead of wasting roadkill or mocking it as hillbilly cuisine, Idaho is tracking the carnage and allowing residents to salvage the carcasses to reduce the number of vehicle-animal collisions and feed hungry people.

Now more states are joining Idaho and others, letting people like Lindskoog, owner of a local breakfast and burger joint, reclaim fresh, nutrient-dense, grass-fed meat that might otherwise end up as a grease stain on the highway. ("We don't serve any game at the restaurant," he assured.)

Lindskoog has salvaged three deer, a couple of times getting a tip from a local sheriff's deputy about an accident near his home. At a safe distance off the highway shoulder, he can butcher all the meat he wants in 30 minutes or less, later freezing it to be used in a year's worth of meals.

As a conservationist, he's eager to let the coyotes, eagles and the rest take care of what remains.

"This was a living thing," he said. "It's the most respectful thing to do if wild game dies. It's the best way to dignify its death."

Lindskoog is required by state law to visit the Idaho Fish and Game website within 24 hours to describe the roadkill: what species he salvaged, its gender and where and when he found the animal.

For Idaho, each dead deer, elk, moose, coyote, black bear, porcupine and pronghorn is a data point.

State officials use the information to identify animal migration patterns, feeding areas and dangerous stretches of road. Their goal is to protect animals, but also people and their vehicles, said Gregg Servheen, Idaho Fish and Game wildlife program coordinator. "We've built an entire transportation system across

the whole United States, and for decades it's been, 'Flat-tened fauna, who cares?'" Servheen said. "You hoped you didn't hit one. You drove by them all the time. It was just a given. Now we're getting to a point where maybe there's a better way."

Since legalizing roadkill salvaging in 2012, Idaho has used its data to build fencing, warning signs, wildlife underpass tunnels and wildlife overpasses to protect deer, elk and other animals.

In the first two months of this year, Idahoans salvaged more than 300 animals from the side of the road. More than 5,000 have been retrieved since 2016.

Not every animal is legally salvageable in Idaho. Non-game wildlife, threatened or endangered species, migratory birds and other animals that are not legally hunted are off-limits.

Servheen acknowledges that the state's data depends on scattered reports from residents. Data might identify a migration pattern, or it might just identify a community where people more diligently report roadkill. The online form isn't accessible to many who live in the backcountry without reliable cell or internet service.

Whatever its limitations, Idaho's salvaging law has been the basis of similar laws that have recently passed in neighboring Oregon and Washington.

Oregon state Sen. Bill Hansell authored a bill that unanimously passed the legislature in 2018.

He saw the roadkill as a wasted opportunity. Now, he said, Oregonians "are being fed high-protein, organic meat they've chosen to eat that otherwise would have rotted on the side of the road."

More than half of states have some version of a roadkill salvaging law.

WEEKEND: BOOKS

Arranging a marriage plot

New books tackle stereotypes, cultural traditions

By KAMRUN NESA

Special to The Washington Post

Romance readers are no strangers to wedding bells; happily ever after is practically preordained. Lately, however, there's a common twist on the marriage trope: depictions of arranged marriage within South Asian and Muslim cultures.

Written by women with intimate knowledge of this particular happy ending, these books offer a corrective to misconceptions about the tradition.

For starters: "There is a difference between forced marriages and arranged marriages, and I think a lot of people get those two things confused," author Nisha Sharma said during a recent interview. Sharma, a first-generation Indian American and the author of "The Takeover Effect" — who was in a semi-arranged marriage after seeing the success of her parents' union — argues that love and arranged marriage are not mutually exclusive and that books can offer "texture" to readers outside the culture who might want to understand it more.

Arranged marriages have been a staple in romance novels for a long time — even if they weren't always depicted in particularly nuanced ways.

"I think readers like marriages of convenience and arranged marriage plots because they effectively and quickly pair the protagonists together in a way that is sure to generate conflict,"

said Elle Keck, an associate editor at Avon and William Morrow Books. "The sparks can fly and, in a romance novel, turn into a terrific love story."

A new crop of books keeps the sparks while also dismantling stereotypes and inviting critical discussion about the traditions themselves.

Sonali Dev's 2014 debut, "A Bollywood Affair," is actually about *undoing* an arranged marriage — a child marriage, to be specific — that the protagonist had no say in, while trying to find herself (and love!) outside of its scope. Dev finds the old-fashioned portrayal of arranged marriage problematic because it so often involves coercing protagonists into marriage and forcing love. To her, that sounds "regressive" compared with what many modern-day arranged marriages typically entail.

While Dev, also the author of the upcoming "Pride, Prejudice, and Other Flavors," acknowledges how complex the tradition is, at least in the urban, educated Indian culture, she sees merit in writing romances about arranged marriage as long as the relationship is mutually consensual and, "as long as the storytelling is authentic and sensitive without exoticizing or vilifying a tradition."

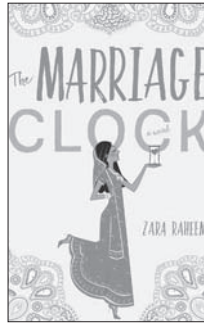
The new romances that focus on the tradition are part of a larger push for inclusivity within the genre, celebrating writers from diverse backgrounds with various kinds of stories to tell.

"There's a demand for nar-

ratives with characters that accurately represent the real-life struggles of people from all backgrounds," said Bianca Flores, assistant publicist at William Morrow Books.

She's currently working with author Zara Raheem on "The Marriage Clock," which comes out in July. Raheem's novel follows Leila, a Muslim-American woman whose parents give her a three-month ultimatum to find the right husband before they take matters into their own hands. Leila goes through a series of dates to find "the one," even though her identity and views on love are at constant odds with parental pressures to settle down. After giving into her mother's requests about matchmaking, Leila thinks to herself: "It might at least buy me some time to discover love on my own while my parents scoured the western region for a husband for me. Just because I had agreed to an arrangement doesn't mean I actually had to go through with it."

"The Marriage Clock" joins a number of other South Asian novels out this year, including Sharma's "The Takeover Effect"; a modern-day Pakistani adaptation of "Pride and Prejudice" called "Unmarriageable," by Soniah Kamal; "Ayesha at Last," by Uzma Jalaluddin — another modern-day "Pride and Prejudice" adaptation; and "The Matchmaker's List," by Sonya Lalli. All richly diverse and complex, many of them analyze gender stereotypes, tradition and



double standards through the lens of young women pressured by their family and culture to get married.

In "The Matchmaker's List," for example, a woman named Raina fends off her grandmother's matchmaking — and that of the Canadian Indian community they're part of.

"I think arranged marriage is important to talk about because the idea that a family or community member might set us up with someone we share values with isn't inherently a bad idea," Lalli said. "It's the execution that can oppress women."

In the novel, Raina calls out the misconceptions people have about modern arranged marriages. "I am often bombarded with questions by coworkers or middle-aged women sitting next to me on long-haul flights after they've picked up on the fact that I'm half Indian," she laments. "They want to know more about this whole 'arranged marriage' thing, whether soon I, too, might be enlisted. But the protocol of today's arranged marriage in my community is less glamorous



than they might anticipate."

Lalli points out that, while arranged marriage and matchmaking have endured in the South Asian subcontinent, they transcend cultural and religious boundaries — and just about everyone can relate to feeling the pressure to pair off. "Raina, who is 30 and hasn't settled down, is viewed as being at fault for being single and not yet finding a husband," Lalli said. "This is an incredibly pervasive double standard affecting women everywhere."

For Lalli, writing about this trope felt personal, and she wanted her experiences to be more represented in the publishing industry and in culture. "As a woman living in the South Asian diaspora, it was important for me to write a book that reflected my own experiences and those of women like me. Both my grandmothers had arranged marriages, and both had very long, supportive and loving marriages. So even as a modern woman, with that sort of example, I never ruled out the idea that I might one day too."

New obsession helps author cope in 'Running Home'

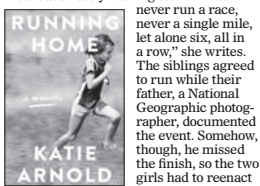
By CHRISTIE ASCHWANDEN

Special to The Washington Post

Grief has a way of reawakening us to our own bodies. When Katie Arnold's father was diagnosed with cancer, she turned to running — not for speed or for fitness but "to get out of the house and escape the dread," she writes in her memoir, "Running Home." She ran "to feel normal again, and just a little bit alive."

As she moves, Arnold works through her problems. The soothing power of physical activity in the outdoors is a recurring theme in this poignant and ultimately uplifting book. After her father's death in 2010, Arnold became obsessed with a fear of dying that turned into a ache and twinge of pain into a fatal disease. To cope with her anxiety, Arnold, now 47, consulted nearly every therapist, muse and wacky alternative medicine provider in Santa Fe, N.M., where she lives. But ultimately it was her weekly hiking partner, the Buddhist writer Natalie Goldberg, who guided her from her terror. "The joke that our hiking will save the world," she writes of their regular jaunts up Picacho Peak, "but I know it's saving me from myself, from my obsessive fears and imaginary ailments."

Arnold became a runner at the age of 7, "by accident." She was visiting her father in Virginia when he suggested that Arnold and her older sister enter a local 10K race. "The distance was so audacious that it meant absolutely nothing to me. I had



never run a race, never a single mile, let alone six, all in a row," she writes. The siblings agreed to run while their father, a National Geographic photographer, documented the event. Somehow, though, he missed the finish, so the two girls had to reaccept it several times.

Arnold's complicated relationship with her father forms the heart of this story. As a young child, Arnold accidentally bumped into her father's bass violin, knocking it to the ground and snapping its delicate neck. The incident fills her with shame. "I had broken his beautiful instru-

ment, which he loved almost as much as us, and some days maybe even more," she writes.

Some of the most moving sections of the book explore how the narratives we tell ourselves can shape our relationships and identities. When her parents' marriage unraveled, young Arnold imagined that she was "somehow responsible" and that it was up to her to make things right. When she discovered her mother sobbing, face down on the floor, she vowed to never do anything that might make her cry again. For years, Arnold also believed that her father's pain over the divorce was of her own making. When she later learns new details that overturn this long-held belief, Arnold was shaken: "The story on which I'd built my childhood, maybe my very self, has been inverted."

Not long after her father died, Arnold signed up for a 31-mile ultramarathon, and soon she was running in 50- and even 100-mile events. She writes with candor about the strain her running sometimes put on her marriage. Arnold, a contributing editor at former managing editor at Outside Magazine, is frank in her portrayal of the quiet negotiations that take place in a relationship as each party seeks to balance self-care and training with the work required to make relationships and

households run smoothly. Although she sometimes feels twinges of guilt about leaving her two daughters to exercise, Arnold also notes that running helps her be more present with her kids when they are together.

Arnold's training, race reports and newfound ambitions for athletic success after she won her first ultramarathon come to form a central thread in the book — one that could have easily grown tedious and boring, even to a lifelong runner like me. Instead, Arnold has written about running in a way that perfectly captures its essence. For her, running is a way of "being awake in the world." Long distance running, she writes, is really "about slowing down. In the quiet of prolonged effort, time stretches, elongates." It can simultaneously draw one's attention inward and outward, connecting the inner self to the surrounding world.

Arnold's running endeavors are not diversions, they are how she makes her own way after losing a parent. The story she shares in "Running Home" will resonate with anyone who has ever run, anyone who has lost a parent, and anyone who has struggled to make peace with a beloved but enigmatic parent — in other words, just about everyone.

WEEKEND: MUSIC REVIEWS

David Gray

Gold in a Brass Age (IHT Records)

David Gray's lively folk record "Gold in a Brass Age" features his signature mix of electronic and folk. Both genres bring strength to the album: folk with its lyrical depth and storytelling style, electronic music with its added push.

The genre-cross works on most songs, as the album grapples with the passing of time.

The energetic, yet delicate "The Sapling" speaks of focusing on growth rather than "the ghosts of better days" with layered vocals and a choir that joins in. Gray's gruff vocals come in on "Watching the Waves" as he wonders "Just how long can it be / 'Till that melody strays," in a song written after the death of a close friend.

The balance of electronic and folk is masterfully struck in most songs, but some feel forced into this trajectory. The title track, a catchy and thoughtful tune, might have been better served without electronic additions. A cuckoo clock sound effect is used in this song about time and distracts more than enhances the track.

The album is more experimental than Gray's past work. In "Mallory," distorted and layered vocals crescendo to an angelic peak resonating underneath Gray's voice as he sings.

There's a sense of searching on this 11-track album that stays light-hearted. The world around him is changing, but, as he sings in "A Tight Ship," he remains resolved to "dance like no one sees."

— Ragan Clark
Associated Press



Patty Griffin

Patty Griffin (PGM/Thirty Tigers)

It's taken Patty Griffin more than 20 years and nearly a dozen albums to issue a self-titled release. There might be no particular reason for the designation, but considering its intensely meditative character, her recently-revealed successful battle with cancer and her dedication to besieged causes like refugees and the environment, it seems like a deliberate choice.

Recorded mostly in the Maine native's Austin, Texas, home studio with longtime collaborator Craig Ross, "Patty Griffin" varies seamlessly between American folk, Celtic-rooted tunes, chansons and beyond with the excellence and elegance Griffin's songwriting has deservedly become known for.

David Pulkingham's Mediterranean-style guitar phrases underpin opener "Mama's Worried," one of several songs on the 13-track album that include seas, rivers and oceans as symbols of strength, vastness and even justice. "River" may be about a woman who is "ever changing and undefined," or it could be an ode to an admired waterway with a will of its own.

"Coins" is one of two tracks featuring Griffin's ex-beau Robert Plant, whose harmonies are endearingly subtle and supportive, with his contribution to "What Now" — a yearningly-sketched song of uncertainty with droning tones and Griffin's mandolin-like guitar and riveting vocals — especially transcendent.

Griffin has never sounded any less than fully engaged on any of her albums and now that her name is on the building, so to speak, her commitment is as profound as ever.

— Pablo Gorondi
Associated Press



Reese Wynans & Friends

Sweet Release (J&R Adventures)

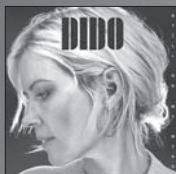
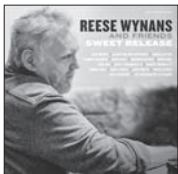
With a career going back to the 1960s, keyboardist Reese Wynans is probably best known for his time recording and touring with Stevie Ray Vaughan. So it's not surprising that "Sweet Release," Wynans' first solo album, is heavy on the SRV connections, including appearances by the Double Trouble tandem of drummer Chris Layton and bass player Tommy Shannon on several takes of the Texan guitarist's tunes, like "Say What!" and "Riviera Paradise."

In fact, the album is enriched by a long list of distinguished six-string masters, such as Warren Haynes, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Doyle Bramhall II, Josh Smith, Keb' Mo' and Jack Pearson. They all seem to make Wynans feel right at home, and his piano and organ playing bursts with energy and taste.

Produced by Joe Bonamassa, who's had Wynans on his own records for years, the album abounds with astonishing performances.

Even with so many guests, Wynans knows how to shine within the ensemble, flashing his flair without unnecessary glare. When he is alone, as on the last track, a piano cover of Paul McCartney's "Blackbird," Wynans' brilliance is beautifully clear.

— Pablo Gorondi
Associated Press



Dido

Still on My Mind (BMG)

Dido's voice remains as clear and affecting as ever, as startlingly touching as it was on the chorus of Eminem's "Stan" and on her own hits like "Here With Me" and "White Flag."

But on "Still on My Mind," her first album since 2013's "Girl Who Got Away," Dido experiments with various musical contexts to convey new moods. The spare, synthesized grandeur of "Have to Stay," about her maternal feelings, may be the simplest, but also the most successful. The single "Hurricanes" uses her voice like the eye of the storm, pulling in all sorts of dance music drama and noise before refocusing. And few singers can use straightforward ballads as defiant anthems the way Dido has, adding "Give You Up" and "Walking By" to her already-formidable catalog.

However, Dido can still manage some surprises. The thudding "Hell After This" is a sly, Tracey Thorn-ish thrill, while the loping swagger of "Mad Love" is a fun change of pace.

"Still on My Mind" shows Dido, with help from her brother Rollo Armstrong of Faithless fame, still crafting her own vision of pop, untouched by the outside world.

— Glenn Gamboa
Newsday



Courtesy of Shore Fire Media

WEEKEND: TELEVISION

WHO IS ALEX TREBEK?

How a mustache and correct pronunciation created a TV icon

By KYLE SWENSON
The Washington Post

The second-most consequential moment in Alex Trebek's tenure as host of "Jeopardy!" probably landed in 2001. By then, the Canadian-born game show personality had been slinging clues and announcing Daily Doubles on the classic program since 1984.

But when the show's 18th season went live that year, viewers were stunned to see a distinct change. Gone was Trebek's trademark mustache, a lip-smothering relic of the hairy 1980s that had become as closely associated with the host as Trebek had been to "Jeopardy!" itself. In true Trebek fashion, he buzzed off his defining physical characteristic on a whim, without telling producers or even his wife. Howls of protests lit up the mediascape over the missing facial hair. "It got so much press, I couldn't believe it," Trebek later told the New Republic in 2014. "The wars with Iraq or whatever at that time, and people are all in a stew over my mustache. I have one response: Get a life."

But as America's most popular quizfest's master of ceremonies, Trebek — he of the droll wit, the professorial pronunciation of obscure operas and animals, the dad-like disappointment when contestants whiff on an easy one — has long enjoyed bucking the expectations of the millions of viewers who have come to know him. "I don't mind surprising people," the host told New York magazine last November.

Now in his 35th season, Trebek delivered another surprise on March 6, a moment that is likely to be the most consequential in his long showbiz career and one with none of the levity of an AWOL mustache. In a video posted online, he revealed he has been diagnosed with late-stage pancreatic cancer.

"Now, normally the prognosis for this is not very encouraging, but I'm going to fight this," Trebek said in the video. "And I'm going to keep working ... with the love and support of my family and friends, and with the help of your prayers also."

The shock and sadness that piled up on social media after the announcement pointed to just how far Trebek's star has risen in American culture — a surprise really, considering the host's self-effacing style. Still, even while revealing his medical condition, Trebek flashed some of the on-screen magic that has kept him a household name for 35 years.

"I plan to beat the low survival rate statistics of this disease," Trebek told viewers. "Truth told, I have to believe under the terms of my contract, I have to host 'Jeopardy!' for three more years!"

Clue: An Ontario-born 78-year-old who started out in broadcasting on local television and radio stations while still completing a philosophy degree at the University of Ottawa.

Answer: Who is Alex Trebek?

Before strutting onto the "Jeopardy!" sound stage in 1984, Trebek was a journeyman game-show host on pro-

Alex Trebek, the host of "Jeopardy!" since 1984, shocked and saddened his many fans when he announced on March 6 that he has been diagnosed with late-stage pancreatic cancer.

Courtesy of CBS Television Distribution



Alex Trebek celebrates his newly-dedicated star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles on May 17, 1999. Trebek buzzed off his trademark mustache in 2001, but he couldn't understand what all the fuss was about.

AP

grams in Canada and the U.S. According to the A.V. Club, he arrived in Hollywood in 1973 to host a show called "The Wizard of Odds." It lasted only a year, and Trebek followed up with several long-forgotten programs — "High Rollers," "The \$128,000 Question," "Battlers" and "Pitfall."

Speaking last year to New York magazine, Trebek looked back on his early days as a single guy trying to make it in Hollywood.

"I was not a player. I dated not that often. I was a shy, small-town Canadian kid," he said. "I never felt like I belonged."

As much as Trebek's personality is welded to "Jeopardy!," the show had a life before he took the wheel. Created by television guru Merv Griffin, the game show had two previous runs — from 1964 through 1975 and 1978 through 1979 — before Trebek (and his mustache) launched the syndicated reboot in 1984.

If Trebek was a showbiz outsider, he also consciously kept himself on the fringe of his program. The key to Trebek's on-screen magic is his absence from the action. Starting in the early days, he purposely dialed his own personality down to low-wattage, a host who never tries to outline the contestants or questions.

"You have to set your ego aside," he told New York last year. "The stars of the show are the contestants and the game itself. That's why I've always insisted that I be introduced as the host and not the star. And if you want to be a good host, you have to figure a way to get the contestants to — as in the old television commercial about the military — 'be all you can be.' Because if they do well, the show does well. And if the show does well, by association I do well."

Trebek has become more than a television host, but a lodestar of American culture. He's hosted more than 7,000 "Jeopardy!" episodes, pocketed six Daytime Emmys, including at least one in each of the past four decades, and also a Peabody Award. Trebek also has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

He's appeared as himself on shows such as "How I Met Your Mother" and "The Simpsons," and has logged appearances on everything from "The Colbert Report" to "RuPaul's Drag Race." Will Ferrell portrayed Trebek on a classic series of "Saturday Night Live" sketches.

In 2014, Trebek was awarded the Guinness World Record for the "most game show episodes hosted by the same presenter." In 2013, Reader's Digest ranked Trebek No. 8 on a poll of the 100 most trusted people in America, beating Melinda Gates, Ellen DeGeneres and President Barack Obama.

News of Trebek's diagnosis sparked an outpouring of well wishes from a wide variety of celebrities and other figures — a testament to the host's appeal.

Ken Jennings, the past "Jeopardy!" contestant with the longest-running winning streak in history, chimed in on Twitter: "I've said this before but Alex Trebek is in a way the last Cronkite: authoritative, reassuring TV voice you hear every night, almost to the point of ritual."

Before his cancer diagnosis, there had been persistent rumors over the years that Trebek would soon call it quits on his show. The game-show host himself has already thought through his final "Jeopardy!"

"I will tell the director, 'Time the show so that I have 30 seconds at the end,'" Trebek explained to New York last November. "So all I want on my last show is 30 seconds, and I'll do what Johnny Carson did: 'Hey, folks, thank you. Been a good run and all good things must come to an end.' Then I'll move on."

WEEKEND: TELEVISION & DVD

NEW ON DVD

“Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse”: Loyal Marvel Comics readers will know the “Spider-Verse” is a storyline that examines what happens when a collection of Spider characters from alternate universes come together. For those who are not up on the Marvel lore, the film does a masterful job of quickly providing origin stories.

The astounding cinematography is enough to recommend seeing the movie. But the script by Phil Lord (“Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs”) and Rodney Rothman (“22 Jump Street”) is equally brilliant. The smart dialogue harks back to the beginnings of Marvel Comics. At the same time, the writing pair have filled the movie with hilarious moments that keep reminding the audience that movies based on comic books don’t have to be somber and should be fun.

The bonus for seeing the film on DVD or Blu-ray is there are so many Easter eggs that a single viewing will not be enough.



SONY PICTURES ANIMATION/AP

Various comic-book iterations of Spider-Man converge in “Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse,” now available on DVD.

“Mary Poppins Returns”: Emily Blunt accomplishes the nearly impossible by taking on the iconic role of the mysterious British nanny that was played so well by Julie Andrews in 1964 and making it work. She brings the same charm and wonder to the character in a tale that unfolds years after the original tale by P.L. Travers.

Michael Banks (Ben Whishaw) was just a child when Mary Poppins first visited 17 Cherry Tree Lane. He’s now grown, and with manhood comes serious financial problems that are compounded by having to raise his children Annabel (Pixie Davies), John (Nathanael Saleh) and Georgie (Joel Dawson) with help from his sister Jane (Emily Mortimer). All seems lost until Mary Poppins returns.

Rob Marshall’s direction of David Magee’s script comes up a little short because too many scenes look like reimaginings of moments from the original movie. There needed to be some mile markers that are similar, but there are too many. It would have helped if at least 30 minutes had been cut, as the movie does tend to drag.

Also available on DVD:

“The Quake”: The Eijkord family faces another natural disaster three years after surviving a 262-foot tsunami in Norway.

“Cradle of Champions”: Documentary follows three individuals on an odyssey through a 10-week boxing tournament.

“Accident”: What starts as a mild pyrrhic turns into a nightmare for four people who borrow the wrong car.

“The Final Wish”: A young man returns home to face his past after the death of his father. Lin Shaye stars.

“NOVA: Apollo’s Daring Mission”: Apollo astronauts and engineers tell the inside story of Apollo 8, the first manned mission to the moon in 1968.

“Born in East L.A.”: The 1987 tale of an American citizen (Cheech Marin) who gets caught up in an immigration raid is being rereleased.

“Lord of War”: Nicolas Cage stars in the 2005 film based on the true story of a gun-runner who supplied dictators and outran the law for nearly 20 years.

—Rick Bentley/Tribune News Service



CBS photos

Michael Sheen, left, joins Christine Baranski on “The Good Fight” as Roland Blum, a lawyer with twisted morals. “He’s disruptive,” says Sheen. “He is kind of like a trickster figure.” The show airs Tuesdays on AFN-Spectrum.

Extreme character actor

Michael Sheen loves freedom of new ‘Good Fight’ role

By RICK BENTLEY
Tribune News Service

Michael Sheen has played a lot of wild and interesting roles over the years, from his vampire days in the “Twilight” series to Dr. William Masters in “The Masters of Sex” and the White Rabbit in “Alice in Wonderland.”

But in his quarter of a century of working in front of cameras, Sheen has never taken on a role as liberating as Roland Blum in the third season of “The Good Fight.” The legal drama starring Christine Baranski, which is available through the CBS All Access streaming service, begins its third season Thursday with Sheen joining the cast as a lawyer who has completely blurred the lines between right and wrong.

“It’s nice to play a character where I don’t have to go through hair and makeup in the morning. I just turn up, and that’s what I look like. I feel a bit like I’m expressing the id of the show, in a way. And there’s something incredibly kind of freeing and liberating about that,” Sheen says. “He’s disruptive. He is kind of like a trickster figure.”

“There is another phrase that I’ve been thinking about recently as well, which I think is a big Silicon Valley phrase, which is, ‘Move fast and break things.’ And that’s kind of what Roland does as well. So he just doesn’t play by the same rules (as) everyone else. He

upsets norms. He seems like he is part of the enemy but may be the key to understanding and moving things along.”

Sheen goes on to describe Blum as devilish and like the Greek god Pan. The picture he paints gets colorful when Sheen discusses the character’s appetite for food and sexual fun. What he expects is viewers will be both drawn to and repelled by Blum.

The character will become part of the continuing tale of Diane Lockhart (Baranski), whose story is a spin-off of the CBS series “The Good Wife.” Lockhart was forced out of Lockhart, Deckler, Gussman, Lee, Lyman, Gilbert, Lurie, Kagan, Tannebaum, & Associates after an enormous financial scandal destroyed the reputation of her goddaughter and her savings. She landed at one of Chicago’s preeminent law firms.

The general practice when an actor plays a lawyer is to observe real attorneys as part of the preparation. Sheen felt no such necessity because he’s less interested in playing the legal elements of Blum and more in focusing on the human traits that make him interesting.

“I am trying to look more like a forest creature and that he has an appetite. Rather than putting a moral or ethical judgment on him, he is someone who goes a bit deeper. This character goes very deep and is very primal. That’s why I am loving playing him so much,” Sheen says. “I get to touch on things we all deal with.”

“People often tell actors who are playing the bad guy in a show that they must be having so much fun because everyone loves a good bad guy. It’s slightly lazy, thinking about it that way, but there is something truthful in that. We go around living a slightly repressed life just to get along with each other, and then you have these characters who come along who decide that because everyone is keeping civilization going, they can just wreck things.”

Blum makes an immediate impact on the other lawyers. In the first scene in which Blum and Lockhart talk, Blum offers her some information that becomes a key element through the entire season. Audra McDonald, who plays Liz Reddick-Lawrence, saw a ripple effect with the addition of Sheen’s character. He’s no longer playing by the rules, which makes those in the law firm begin to examine how their own ethics are either helping or hurting them.

Sheen comes to the outlandish role in the streaming service series with a long list of credits including “The Queen,” “Frost/Nixon,” “Midnight in Paris,” “Underworld,” “The Damned United,” “Tron: Legacy” and “Far from the Madding Crowd.”

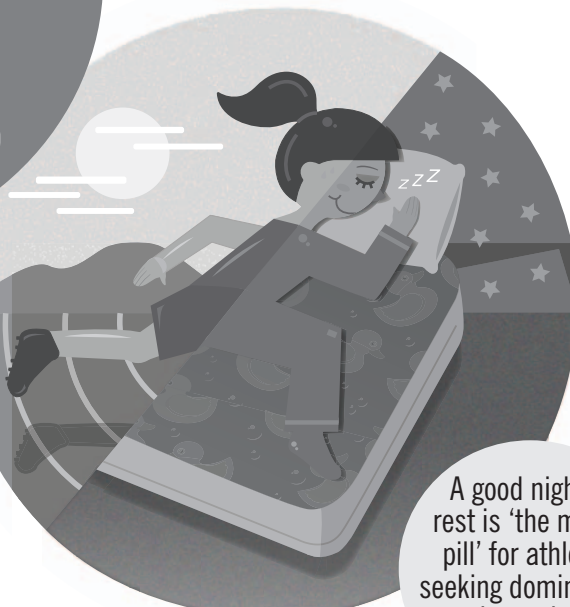
“We go around living a slightly repressed life just to get along with each other, and then you have these characters who ... decide that because everyone is keeping civilization going, they can just wreck things.”

Michael Sheen

about his new lawyer character on “The Good Fight”



WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

SLEEPING
your way
to the top

A good night's
rest is 'the magic
pill' for athletes
seeking dominance,
longevity

ILLUSTRATION BY ANDREA VILLARI
Stars and Stripes

sleeping on performance.

"These are the people who, when they track their sleep, find that they do better than they think," he says. "They might struggle four nights out of 30, but it's the four nights that they focus on."

BY AMANDA LOUDIN
Special to The Washington Post

Tom Brady, the NFL's oldest quarterback, and his high-tech pajamas, early bedtime and preference for a cold, cave-like bedroom have provided plenty of fodder for American sports fans.

But for elite athletes, sleep is no joke. And these days, coaches, trainers and athletes are focusing on shut-eye like never before.

"There's a 100 percent correlation in quality of sleep to performance on the field," says Steve Smith, senior director of health, wellness and performance for the Washington Wizards. "Acutely and chronically, sleep impacts reaction time, alertness and the ability to play to talent level." Studies have shown that getting a good night's sleep may help reduce the risk of injury and illness in athletes.

Sleep and its relationship to performance is a relatively new focus for many athletes, says Chris Winter, author of "The Sleep Solution: Why Your Sleep Is Broken and How to Fix It," and consultant to the Wizards. "As the field of sports performance has evolved, we've covered most of the bases," including training, nutrition and hydration, "and sleep is the last to fall into place. It really wasn't until 2005 that research started delving into it."

Winter has led some of the most influential research on the connection between sleep and athletic performance. A 2013 study, for instance, piggybacked on early Major League Baseball research to look into the relationship between fatigue and career longevity in the league. It found that the more tired players were — on a self-reported sleepiness scale — the less likely they were to still be in the league at the three-year follow-up point.

"If you're an athlete who has a long season — like MLB or NBA players — the season catches up to you, particularly if you're not sleeping well," Winter says. "Sleep impacts everything."

For some athletes, checking sleep hygiene boxes a la Brady pays off. For others, however, restorative sleep can be hard to get.

'Best year yet'

Becky Wade, 29, is among the country's top female marathoners — the runner will be lining up at next year's Olympic trials for the fourth time. When in heavy training, Wade, who lives in Boulder, Colo., logs 100-plus miles per week. She knows all the right things to do to keep her body healthy, such as eating well and balancing her training, and is diligent about them. She finds a good night's

sleep elusive, however.

"It became problematic in high school," Wade says. "The pressures of school, training and my goals all began to escalate. I had a hard time both getting to sleep and staying asleep." And she felt it then — and now — in her training. "I can get through an easy day, but if it's a tough workout, I definitely struggle."

Wade is well aware of the science behind sleep and performance and admits that, sometimes, that's part of the problem. "It is stress inducing," she says. "I feel like because I don't get the sleep I need, I'm skipping on maximal training."

Natasha Cloud, a 26-year-old point guard with the WNBA's Washington Mystics, says she's always been a poor sleeper but she really noticed its impact when she got to the WNBA. "I really struggled my first three years in the league as a result," she says. "It's tough to recover after a bad night's sleep. On the court, I was drowsy, slow and had poor reaction times."

After a consult with Winter, Cloud made changes to her routine, including limiting late-night use of her cellphone and other devices, and dedicated herself to getting the rest she needed. It paid off.

"This has been my best year yet," she says. "I've established a bedtime routine that helps my body signal it is time to sleep. I've learned to stay off my phone at night and aim for an early bedtime whenever possible."

Winter says that the vicious cycle of needing sleep, worrying about it and then getting even less, like Wade described, is common among top athletes. "You've got hyper-focused athletes who want to do everything right," he says. "But that can be a liability when it comes to sleep."

Wade says she has explored many avenues to improve the quality of her sleep. Over time, she says she has developed workarounds to help offset the detrimental impact of lost sleep.

"I do all the right things with regards to sleep hygiene, and that helps to some extent," she says. "I also take naps when I can because I'm better at napping than sleeping through the night."

This napping approach may actually mean Wade, and others like her, get more sleep than they realize, says Winter, mitigating the negative effects of nighttime in-

'Optimizing sleep'

Smith sees plenty of players who don't get enough sleep. "I don't know that there are many players who don't have some sleep issue," he says. "You've got a fast-wired, driven group and after a game or practice, they need to shut it down and sleep. That can be hard."

One study also found that team-sport athletes are "particularly susceptible to reductions in both sleep quality and sleep duration after night competition and periods of heavy training."

Like many regular people, elite athletes multiply their issues by spending too much time on devices. "The blue light damages their circadian rhythms," says Smith, meaning that their body's natural sleep-wake cycle can get out of whack. "We've given them blue-light blocking glasses and ask them to take a break from their devices before bed."

The Wizards take other steps to improve sleep, as well, including scheduling travel for away games across time zones "to optimize sleep," Smith says. "We've also added sensory deprivation tanks, education, and staff members who send reminders about sleep. We've thrown everything at it, both high-tech and low-tech."

One thing the athletes generally do not do is use sleep aids, either over-the-counter ones, such as melatonin, or prescription pills such as Ambien. "Instead of handing them a pill, which doesn't solve their long-term problems, we like to give them tools to deal with their issues," Winter says.

It's not hard, says Smith, to predict which athletes will be in the NBA for the long haul. Like Brady in the NFL, they're the ones who take sleep seriously. "The guys who have a sleep routine and appreciate the value of it are the ones who will make it," he says. "If they don't, given equal talent, they will have a shorter career."

As a performance coach, sleep is the one issue Smith wishes all his athletes took seriously. "It's the magic pill," he says. "For an athlete, it simply cures most ills."

WEEKEND: FAMILY



(iStock photo)

FRAME

of reference

What parents need to know about kids and glasses

By LINDSEY M. ROBERTS

Special To The Washington Post

Since my son got his first pair of glasses when he was 2 years old, we've had some interesting, and at times harrowing, adventures. There were the metal frames that bent sideways, the lost acetate frames, and, oh, did you know that if your child wrestles with his dad while wearing thick lenses that stick out of the frames a smidgen, he could slice open his eyebrow and need stitches? Yeah, me neither.

My son is 6 years old now, and we've come a long way in this department. To help other parents navigate the world of glasses with young children, I spoke with several experts. Here are their suggestions for a smoother ride.

1. Get a vision check early. Children should be examined between the ages of 6 and 12 months, says Stacy Hill, a clinical adjunct faculty member at Pacific University College of Optometry in Forest Grove, Ore. "If the doctor finds no concerns at that visit, then the child should be reexamined at three years and again before entering school," she says. If the visit isn't covered by insurance, the InfantSEE program provides free eye examinations to children up to 12 months old, checking for nearsightedness, farsightedness, astigmatism, eye movement problems and eye health problems. While eye charts don't work on babies, flashlights and small toys help the doctor see how well the eyes are working.

2. Vision is more than 20/20. "If your child is seeing well but is struggling in school or has attention/behavioral problems," Hill says, "there is a strong chance that there is a visual skill deficit that needs to be addressed with glasses or vision therapy." These deficits could include focusing issues, double vision, strabismus, "lazy eye" and visual-motor problems such as clumsiness. Vision therapy is like physical therapy, using lenses, prisms, filters and other tools under the supervision of a doctor to improve visual skills. For an evaluation, look for a local developmental and pediatric optometrist at COVD.org. "If there isn't a vision skill issue, the doctor may be able to help connect parents to other professionals who may be able to help," she adds.

3. Think about replacement and repair policies. Accept the fact that your kids will lose or break their glasses, and you will need to have a plan for when that happens. Zenni Optical sells

replacement frames for glasses if you purchased them there originally—I paid about \$7 to have a new pair shipped when ours broke. (Wrestling the lenses into the new frames caused me to break into a sweat, so brace yourself.) Jonas Paul Eyewear will provide a one-time replacement pair of frames for half-off. Inexpensive glasses might be easier to replace, while higher-priced glasses might come with better replacement and repair policies—but not always. Check all policies to make sure you're comfortable with them before you buy. Having a backup pair is also nice, if money allows.

4. Frame material options. When it comes to the material for the frame, "pick your poison," says Richard Golden, a pediatric ophthalmologist at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. Letting your child have a voice in the final decision will mean better care for and use of his or her glasses. "Metal frames are more adjustable and they're lighter. The downside is that they can bend—but they don't break as easily. Plastic frames don't get bent out of shape as easily, but the hinges on them are less flexible so that they can break." For much younger kids, Golden recommends frames that are made out of a molded nylon material. "They don't have an actual hinge on them so they're completely flexible," he says. "You could tie them in a pretzel, and they won't break." Miraflex, Dilli Dalli and Flexon are some of the brands that offer these frames.

5. Know when to wear the glasses. "I think everyone assumes you need to wear them all the time, and it really just depends on the prescription," says Megan E. Collins, assistant professor of ophthalmology at the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. "Some kids are nearsighted, and glasses are just for seeing things far away; some kids are farsighted, and they need them just to read." Kids with strong prescriptions may need to wear them all the time, especially if they're helping to correct for strabismus, or eye misalignment. Specific glasses for specific times also means that if your child plays a competitive sport, sports glasses, such as Rec Specs—even for prescription goggles—are a nice option. For outdoor activities, transition lenses, which automatically tint to block the sun's rays, are helpful for kids who are super sensitive to light. Otherwise, Collins says, they aren't necessary. You can trade their regular glasses out for fun sunglasses, or use a hat to shield their eyes.

THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



Thunderdome awaits college-seeking kids

Back in 1983, I showed up for my SAT test with two No. 2 pencils and a pack of gum. The night before, I talked to my best friend on the phone for two hours, but never cracked a book. I don't think there were test prep books back in those days. Besides, we figured SATs were aptitude tests. You were smart, or you weren't. Not much you could do about it.

When my score came back, I hadn't broken a thousand, so I took the test again. That time, I got a 1070, and thought, "Well, I guess that's it, then."

I picked schools from one of those three-inch-thick catalogues listing all the colleges and universities, sent off application packets, and got accepted to Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Miami cost my parents \$12,000 per year, a small fortune for them.

When it came time for each of my three children to go through the college application process, I learned quickly that times have drastically changed. With my SAT score, mediocre grades and no recruitable skills, I would have never been accepted to Miami of Ohio today.

Not to mention the staggering cost of college in the 21st century, which has nearly quadrupled since the 1980s. And then there's the application process, which is now like entering a College Admissions' Thunderdome. Every applicant for themselves, in a cutthroat, competitive rat race. Featherweight kids are thrown into the ring, wide-eyed and naive. Their parents act as cornermen, urging them to fight and applying adrenaline to stop the bleeding.

Rather than allow their high school students to shoot hoops with friends after school, parents sign them up for admissions test prep courses starting in 10th grade. Piles of thick test prep books adorn students' bedroom floors. The least expensive online courses cost several hundred dollars, but many parents shell out big bucks for one-on-one tutoring to the tune of hundreds of dollars per hour.

Kids are told that they won't stand a chance if their college applications don't show evidence of leadership, advanced academics and community service, so they found obscure clubs, suffer through AP courses and stage lame fundraisers.

If their kids have the slightest glimmer of athletic ability, parents sign them up for teams, camps, lessons, tournaments and showcases, in hopes that college coaches will take notice. They dip into their thinning wallets to pay sports video companies to create recruitment films of their kids running on soccer fields and returning groundstrokes to jazzy music.

Students begin writing college essays a year in advance. Original drafts are funneled through teachers, tutors, parents and counselors who offer "editing advice." The end product is unrecognizable, but everyone hopes the essay is improved enough to get the student into college, or maybe earn him the Pulitzer Prize.

Applications are sent in, but that's only Round One. Blood, sweat and tears are shed as parents and students brace themselves for the painful uppercuts of rejection. Having been through the College Application Thunderdome with my own children, I fully understand the agony of waiting for that final bell to ring. Hoping you did all you could. Hoping your kid will get what they want.

And as if this hellish process weren't competitive enough, we find out that some wealthy parents have been using bribery to get their kids accepted. While the rest of us are feeling guilty that we helped our kids change a few words in their college essays, rich lawyers, wealthy CEOs, Hollywood actresses, famous fashion designers and other elites are paying many thousands of dollars to bribe college coaches and admissions test proctors to cheat the system.

But the real losers in this process aren't kids who got rejected from their favorite schools or even necessarily the scammers facing 20 years in prison; it's any parent—criminal or not—who makes his or her kid feel not good enough to get into college on his own merit.

That's the real sucker punch.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at: themeatandpotatoesoflife.com
Email: meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com

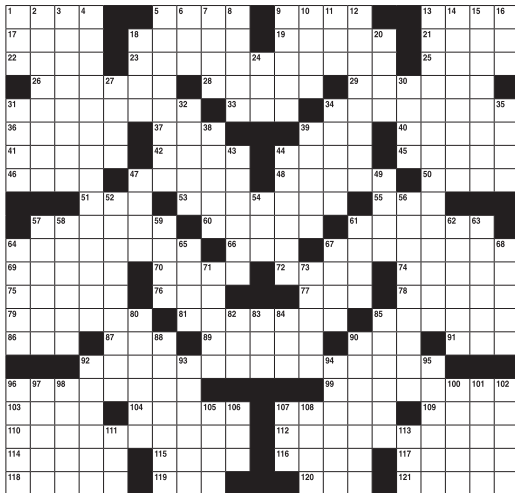
WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

THAT'S ANOTHER STORY BY SOPHIA MAYMIDES AND JEFF CHEN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Sophia Maymides is a junior at Carlton College in Northfield, Minn., studying computer science and math. She has been making crosswords since high school. For this one, her first Sunday puzzle, she teamed up with a fellow Seattle resident, Jeff Chen, who writes a daily crossword blog, XWord Info. They jointly brainstormed theme examples. Jeff laid out the grid. Sophia did most of the fill. They each wrote half the clues. Sophia says, "The entire puzzle took nearly a hundred emails back and forth to create." —W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Most popular baby girl's name of the 1960s, per the Social Security Administration
- 5 Squealer
- 9 Inside info
- 13 For fear that
- 17 Juul, e.g., for short
- 18 Old-time "The Price Is Right" announcer Johnny
- 19 Bit of greenery
- 21 Palindromic boy's name
- 22 Ward of cinema
- 23 Biography of Ebenezer Scrooge?
- 25 "Castaway" director Nicolas
- 26 Bond tightly
- 28 Colleague of Gorskuch
- 29 Big name in chicken
- 31 Biography of Amelia Earhart?
- 33 "Decorates" on Halloween, say
- 34 Biography of Archimedes?
- 36 Beep-booping droid, for short?
- 37 Two-year degrees, briefly
- 39 Tricked
- 40 Took out
- 41 Some endangered ecosystems
- 42 One-fifth of the Jackson 5
- 44 Jesus on the diamond
- 45 Note taker
- 46 Tip-off for an exam proctor
- 47 What the "sans" refers to in Comic Sans
- 48 Diaper : U.S. :: ____ : U.K.
- 50 Oil magnate Leon who once owned the New York Jets
- 51 "Girls" home
- 53 Only mildly sweet
- 55 Get a Venmo request, say
- 57 Go through a window?
- 60 Obvious answer
- 61 Recreational sailboats
- 64 Excelled
- 66 British miler
- 67 Diner sign
- 69 Shrewd
- 70 Winged Greek goddess
- 72 Highest hand value in baccarat
- 74 Capital of France's Côte d'Or
- 75 High points
- 76 Credit score, for short?
- 77 One side of the G.W. Bridge
- 78 Clever move
- 79 ____ monkey
- 81 Swimsuit material
- 85 "Step on it!"
- 86 Have a ____ for
- 87 Good name, informally
- 89 Xenophobe's fear, with "the"
- 90 Tro
- 91 Verb that's a homophone for a letter
- 92 Biography of the Venus de Milo?
- 96 One using a heater, say
- 99 Sound effects after some one-liners
- 103 Dramatic award
- 104 Pair of hearts?
- 107 Loudly project
- 109 Adidas competitor
- 110 & 112 Biography of Elvis?
- 114 With passion
- 115 Gate expectations, briefly?
- 116 Big dos
- 117 Quad/glute exercise
- 118 Wear away
- 119 Dramatic rebuttal
- 120 Poetic conjunction
- 121 Lets go of
- DOWN**
- 1 Picasso's "____ Doraemon"
- 2 Some Antarctic samples
- 3 They create soft c's and g's
- 4 Biography of Thomas Crapper?
- 5 Unvarying charge
- 6 Its national anthem is "HaitiKvab": Abbc
- 7 Home to Bourbon St.
- 8 Showed allegiance, in a way
- 9 Some H.S. exams
- 10 "Yikes!"
- 11 Airport code for O'Hare
- 12 Elvis Costello hit that starts "I've been on tenterhooks / Ending in dirty looks"
- 13 Biography of Willie Mays?
- 14 Cajon dish of shellfish over rice
- 15 Increases in price
- 16 Dress (up)
- 18 Prefix with present
- 20 Major Argentine export
- 24 Chihuahua's sound
- 27 Big features of reality TV
- 30 Model T competitors
- 31 John Irving title character
- 32 Retreats
- 34 Like the signatures of outgoing people, it's said
- 35 Altar exchange
- 38 Author Larsson
- 39 Fiery look
- 43 & 44 Biography of Walt Disney?
- 47 Star turn
- 49 Hitch together
- 52 Doesn't go overboard?



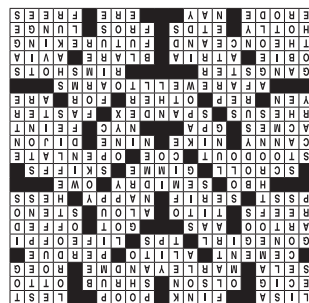
- 54 "You may not have asked me, but ..."
- 56 Certain green-energy producers
- 57 Part of a Vandyke, informally
- 58 The title characters of 1988's "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels," e.g.
- 59 Iron ____
- 61 Kind of sheet
- 62 Tex-Mex offering
- 63 Stereotypical High Times reader
- 64 Lovecraftian
- 65 Pointers
- 67 Inky stone
- 68 Between: Fr.
- 71 Wham!
- 73 Nonreactive
- 80 Alaska Airlines hub
- 82 Suffix with doctor
- 83 Montreal is part of it: Abbc
- 84 State on the Atl. coast
- 85 Onetime
- 88 Like the phase ending after 12
- 90 Why parodies can't be sued for copyright infringement
- 92 Classic
- 93 Corrigenda
- 94 Daniel Webster, notably
- 95 Artist with seven posthumous platinum albums
- 96 ____ distance
- 97 Detect
- 98 Grandchild: Sp.
- 100 Like some flocks
- 101 Blush, e.g.
- 102 Seven ____ of Ancient Greece
- 105 Midwest capital, informally
- 106 Revenue alternative to subscriptions
- 107 Bosom buddy
- 108 Anglerfish's light, e.g.
- 111 The Science Guy
- 113 Giant's opposite

GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com. Online: gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



STARS & STRIPES 15 YEARS IN AFGHANISTAN



The story of the U.S. military's role in Afghanistan, as seen through the eyes of Stars and Stripes journalists covering America's longest war.

Only \$14.99 with Free Shipping

ORDER NOW at www.stripesstore.com



FACES

Fighting for airtime

Rock Hall of Famer Joan Jett pumping out songs with Blackhearts, but struggling to be heard

BY GLENN GAMBOA
Newsday

Joan Jett and Kenny Laguna — her longtime producer and songwriting partner, as well as the keyboardist in her band, the Blackhearts — know they are still making good music. They just wish more people would get to hear it.

"We're trying to figure out a way to work on the single 'Fresh Start,' which I think is the best thing we've done in years and years," Laguna says of the theme song from the Jett documentary "Bad Reputation," released last year. "It's very hard for people of our era to get on mainstream radio. ... I don't resent it at all, like some of our friends. People who are so iconic, like the Stones or Bruce Springsteen — they're not getting on the radio. When I was a kid and buying rock and roll records, my parents were freaked out that their idols were off the radio. No more Doris Day, sorry. That's what happens."

"We keep trying," adds Jett, who has called Long Beach, N.Y., home for decades. "What else are you going to do? You just have to try. Keep fighting."

After all, that's what the Rock and Roll Hall of Famer has been doing for pretty much her entire career. So why stop now?

"We keep waiting for our George Foreman moment," says Laguna, referring to Foreman knocking out Michael Moorer

in 1994 to regain the title of heavyweight champion of the world at the age of 45.

For Jett, though, getting another hit isn't the point. "You realize that the idea of 'a hit' is a whole business thing going on that has nothing to do with what is the best, the most fun songs that people want to hear," she says. "It just doesn't work that way."

"Joan never had a hit," Laguna begins. "Without a struggle," finishes Jett.

Her commercial successes like "I Love Rock 'n' Roll" and "Do You Wanna Touch Me?" only came after fans demanded that radio play them. "The song had to be unstoppable," says Laguna. "Like when radio played 'Do You Wanna Touch Me?' the phones lit up. ... 'Crimson and Clover' probably wouldn't have existed if 'I Love Rock 'n' Roll' didn't come first. They only had to play it once and they would get the requests."

Nevertheless, Jett has always connected most with her fans through her tours. And this summer will be no different, as Joan Jett & the Blackhearts hit the road for a U.S. tour with Heart.

"It's a good bill," Jett says. "It wasn't in the forefront of my mind that it was all women. That wasn't my initial response. I was just into it. It should be a blast."

"Before Joan was an iconic star or even had a hit, when we'd run into them on different shows, they were always especially nice," adds Laguna. "Not every act was. So they stood out. They got what Joan was doing."

“You realize that the idea of “a hit” is a whole business thing going on that has nothing to do with what is the best, the most fun songs that people want to hear. IT JUST DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY.”

Joan Jett



Courtesy of Blackheart

Daniels: 'Pain and anger' around 'Empire' in recent weeks

From wire services

"Empire" co-creator and executive producer Lea Danels says the weeks since cast member Jussie Smollett was arrested and charged with fabricating a racist and homophobic attack have been "a freakin' rollercoaster."

In an Instagram video, Danels says since "the incident" he and his cast have "experienced pain and anger and sadness and frustration and really don't know how to deal with it."

Daniels has been among the first to voice his support for Smollett after he made the report in January.

Daniels and other producers

removed Smollett's character from the season's final episodes. Smollett has pleaded not guilty.

Letterman: I stayed on network TV for too long

David Letterman says he stuck around on network television around 10 years too long.

He made that revelation during an appearance Thursday on Ellen DeGeneres' talk show. Letterman quit in 2015 after 33 years as a late-night host on CBS and NBC, and is beginning his second season on his more leisurely-paced Netflix show.

Letterman says it turns out nobody had the guts to fire him.

He says it took leaving the show for him to realize that there's more to life than asking some celebrity to "tell us about your pet beaver."

Bentley to perform at NFL Draft

Country star Dierks Bentley has joined the list of scheduled performers for next month's NFL Draft festivities.

Bentley will perform a free outdoor concert April 27 in downtown Nashville to coincide with the draft and the running of the Nashville Marathon.

Grammy-winning country performer Tim McGraw and Grammy-winning gospel singer CeCe Winans already had announced as scheduled performers the week of the draft. McGraw will hold a free outdoor concert April 26. Winans will sing the National Anthem on April 25.

NFL officials have said more than 20 singers or bands will perform.

GLAAD to honor Bravo's Andy Cohen

Andy Cohen has joined the roster of this year's GLAAD Media Awards honorees.

Bravo's "Watch What Happens Live!" host will receive the advocacy group's Vito Russo Award during the New York edition of the 30th GLAAD Media Awards on May 4.

The award, named for GLAAD's founder, is "presented to an openly LGBTQ media professional who has made a significant difference in accelerating LGBTQ acceptance," the organization said Wednesday.

The former CBS News producer became the first out gay host of an American late-night talk show in 2009 when he launched "Watch What Happens Live with Andy Cohen" on Bravo.

'Dick Van Dyke Show' scripts to be preserved

Hollywood producer Carl Reiner and the National Comedy Center say they're working together to digitally preserve Reiner's collection of scripts from the 1960s' "The Dick Van Dyke Show."

The scripts are full of Reiner's handwritten notes. Reiner, 97, says creating and producing the comedy is the project he's most proud of. His scripts for all 158 episodes have been stored since production wrapped in 1966.

The National Comedy Center also says it has acquired production documents and scripts from director John Rich, who directed the first 41 episodes of "The Dick Van Dyke Show" and was the original director of "All in the Family."



Daniels

STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
Lt. Col. Sean Klinker, Europe commander
Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander
Harry Eley, Europe Business Operations

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
leonard.terry@stripes.com
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
reid.robert@stripes.com
Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content
croley.tina@stripes.com
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
moores.sean@stripes.com
Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
gromelski.joe@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

Erik Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
slavin.eric@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9350, DSN (314)583.9350

Pacific

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
kidd.aaron@stripes.com
+81.42.552.251 ext. 88380, DSN (315)277.380

Washington

Joseph Cacchioni, Washington Bureau Chief
cacchioni.joseph@stripes.com
+1(202)886-0033
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
bowers.brian@stripes.com

CIRCULATION

Mideast

Robert Reisman, Mideast Circulation Manager
reism.r.l.w@stripes.com
socialcirculation@stripes.com
DSN (314)583-9111

Europe

Matthew Smith, Europe@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9111, DSN (314)583.9111

Pacific

Mel Mori, customerhelp@stripes.com
+61-3 6385-3137, DSN (315)229.3171

CONTACT US

Washington

tel: +1(202) 886-0005
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contactus

OMBUDSMAN

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by phone at 202.886.0005.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0471900) is published weekly: days (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, UPO #45002, APO AF 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, UPO #45002, APO AF 96301-5002.

This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2019

stripes.com

OPINION

GOP discovers the joy of regulating the internet

By JON HEALEY
Los Angeles Times

Every time I hear a Republican complain about Facebook, Twitter or Google, I think, "Wait — aren't you the 'hands off the internet' party?"

The GOP, after all, has been the main obstacle to net neutrality regulations, the rules on broadband providers designed to protect the internet from meddling by its gatekeepers. When Republicans took control of the Federal Communications Commission in 2017, they quickly erased almost all the net neutrality rules adopted by their Democratic predecessors, then renounced the commission's power to stop broadband providers from doing ... anything.

Now contrast that bold deregulatory step with the comments and efforts by the likes of Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., and Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo. They're taking aim at what may be the most powerful bit of pro-internet legislation Congress has ever enacted, Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act. The party's position seems to boil down to this: We're fine with letting the free market solve problems online until they become our problems.

Under Section 230, websites cannot be held liable for the content posted by their users. Together with the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, Section 230 has protected sites that rely on user-generated content (especially social media sites like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube) from being sued out of existence when their users post something that violates the law.

Bear in mind that Section 230 doesn't stop people from suing the living daylight out of people for libel, defamation, extortion or any other tort. It simply tells aggrieved parties to sue the person who did the deed, not the site that provided the offending content a home online.

That principle does not inform the \$250 million defamation lawsuit that Nunes filed this week against Twitter and three of its users, seeking to hold them all liable

for the harsh personal critiques the three users leveled against him. One of the critics is a longtime political consultant for Republicans; another is a parody account by "Devin Nunes' Mom" that Twitter has suspended; and the third is a still-active parody account by "Devin Nunes' Cow."

I am not a lawyer, but I am fairly confident Nunes' complaint gets the law wrong right off the bat when it states that Twitter is an "information content provider" under Section 230. It is not; it is an "interactive computer service," the sort of service that the law specifically shields from liability. But in an attempt to color the court's analysis, the complaint argues that Twitter develops content by censoring some users while also failing to enforce its rules, "shadow-banning conservatives" (like Nunes) and "knowingly hosting and monetizing content that is clearly abusive, hateful and defamatory."

Nope. Unless Devin Nunes' Mom and his cow paid to promote their tweets, it's safe to assume Twitter didn't turn them magically into cash. And the whole point of Section 230 was to allow companies like Twitter to enforce rules (i.e., censor some users) without being treated as a publisher for the purpose of liability.

Oh and that shadow-banning thing that conservatives rant about? It's bogus.

What's striking here is that Nunes has identified the sources of the alleged defamation and could easily sue them directly. But seeking \$250 million in damages from three individuals instead of a big tech company, would seem even more ridiculous. And remember, defamation damages are based on how much a person's reputation has been harmed. Insert your joke here about the value of the reputation Nunes has cultivated over the last two years.

Hawley has taken a much more serious approach to regulating the internet, and his concerns about data privacy and market power are well taken. But his proposed solution to alleged anti-conservative bias is poorly thought out. He would require com-

panies like Twitter to meet a government-decreed standard of viewpoint neutrality in crafting and enforcing their terms of service, or else they would no longer be shielded from liability for their users' posts. Hawley warned the courts that if they gave a conservative's heart at the Conservative Political Action Conference this month, declaring, "Google and Facebook should not be a law unto themselves. They should not be able to discriminate against conservatives. They should not be able to tell us that we have to sit down and shut up."

But why does Hawley trust the government to do a better job policing viewpoint neutrality than Twitter et al. police their own sites? And merely imposing some kind of neutrality standard would only lead sites to clamp down far more severely on politically oriented commentary on their sites, or fear of seeming favor one side over the other. As Robby Soave pointed out at Reason.com, "it is not at all obvious that an internet without Section 230 would be friendlier to conservative viewpoints, since this would actually give platforms even more cause to police speech."

And, by the way, Facebook, Google and other major tech firms have amended their algorithms and moderation systems in a way that blocks edge conservative content more often than edge liberal content. People are more likely to find something objectionable if they disagree with it, and many of the folks who work at the big tech firms in Silicon Valley lean in the same direction as their state.

But I don't think Section 230 is the problem. On the contrary, it's part of the solution because it is more valuable to the companies that want to challenge the tech giants than to the giants themselves, who can absorb the cost of lawsuits from the likes of the Devin Nunes of the world. If the GOP really wants to cement the dominance of big tech companies, it should keep working to regulate them.

Jon Healey is the Los Angeles Times' deputy editorial page editor.

Democrats should not advocate packing the court

By MICHAEL MCGOUGH
Los Angeles Times

For several months, the left wing of the Democratic Party has been flirting with the idea of increasing the size of the Supreme Court if Democrats gain control of Congress and the presidency in 2020.

Now the idea of "packing the court" (as President Franklin D. Roosevelt tried to do in the 1930s) has attracted the interest if not necessarily the endorsement of some Democratic presidential hopefuls. Former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke has even floated the idea of a 15-member court.

"What if there were five justices selected by Democrats, five justices selected by Republicans, and those 10 then pick five more justices independent of those who chose the first 10?" O'Rourke mused the other day. "I think that's an idea we should explore."

More likely — or less unlikely — a Democratic-controlled Congress would enlarge the court by two seats and a Democratic president would duly fill those vacancies with reliably progressive nominees. That would obliterate the conservative majority secured when President Donald Trump selected the Supreme Justice Antonin Scalia with Neil Gorsuch.

Even in its stripped-down form, court packing is an idea the Democrats can accomplish only when they control both the executive and legislative branches. (On Tuesday, Trump said that the court wouldn't be engaged on his watch. Thank you, Captain Obvious.)

But court packing is something the Democrats shouldn't even be talking about. It's a thoroughly bad idea, and not just because it might send a capital punishment machine of tit-for-tat expansions every time power in Washington changes hands.

Court packing would further politicize a Supreme Court that is already viewed as a partisan institution, and it would violate the norm that change in the court's membership is accomplished gradually through the replacement of individual members, not by ideologically engineered expansion.

Granted, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and other Republicans trashed a different norm in 2016 when they refused even to hold a hearings on Merrick Garland, President Barack Obama's nominee for the seat that eventually went to Justice Neil Gorsuch. But that's a Senate consideration of his nominee even in a presidential election year. (The same would have been true if a Republican president had nominated someone to the court in an election year and Democrats had controlled the Senate.)

But part of what makes respectful consideration of Supreme Court nominees a norm is the recognition that federal judges aren't tools of the presidents who appoint them. Otherwise, justices appointed by the same president always would agree.

This was the point Chief Justice John Roberts was trying to make when he reminded Trump last year that "we do not have Obama judges or Trump judges, Bush judges or Clinton judges."

Trump disagrees, but so do Democrats who believe that the Scalia seat was "stolen" from Obama — as if Garland was just another nominee with patronage appetite who would do his benefactor's bidding.

Obviously it matters in some politically charged cases whether a justice is nominated by a Democrat or a Republican. As I wrote in November, Roberts' "no Obama judges" sermon was a little simplistic. Still, there was a time — not all that long ago — when Supreme Court nominees (and other judicial nominees) received significant bipartisan support in the Senate.

That started to change well before McConnell's blocking of Garland, and it has continued since then. You can't blame the mistreatment of Garland on the fact that 22 Democratic senators (including Obama) voted against the confirmation of Roberts in 2005. Even more Democrats — 40 — voted against the 2006 confirmation of Justice Samuel Alito, another George W. Bush nominee. And after Obama took office, Senate Republicans returned the favor by largely opposing the nominations of Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan.

Returning the confirmation process for Supreme Court nominees to a semblance of bipartisanship and comity won't be easy, and Republicans deserve a disproportionate share of the blame for the current situation. But it will be even harder to restore those values if the Democrats make partisan court packing part of their platform.

Michael McGough is the Los Angeles Times' senior editorial writer, based in Washington.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Electoral College prevents chaos as we pick presidents

The Wall Street Journal
Last week we wrote about Democratic ambitions to pack the Supreme Court. This week the Electoral College is on the chopping block as Sen. Elizabeth Warren comes out in favor of its abolition, Beto O'Rourke makes sympathetic noises and Colorado's Democratic governor signs a bill adding his state to the "National Popular Vote Interstate Compact." Scrapping the system the U.S. has used to select presidents since its founding will likely soon be the Democrats' default position.

Like the Supreme Court, the Electoral College sometimes frustrates the will of political majorities. But it is also the system's target in this populist age. But while "majority rules" has always been an appealing slogan, it's an insufficient principle for structuring an electoral system in the U.S.

Presidential elections often do not produce popular majorities. In 2016 neither Hillary Clinton nor Donald Trump won 50 percent. "Plurality rules" doesn't have the same ring to it. In the absence of the Electoral College, the winner's vote share would likely be significantly smaller than is common today. Third-party candidates who can't realistically win a majority in any state would have a greater incentive to enter the race.

Democrats are upset that Trump is president with 46 percent of the vote to Clinton's 48 percent. What if a Republican was elected with a third of the vote in an election featuring five formidable third-party candidates? A free-for-all plebiscite would be the likely legitimacy. The Electoral College helps narrow the field to two serious contenders, as voters decide not to waste their vote on candidates who have no chance to win.

The founders designed the Electoral College to help ensure that states with diverse preferences could cohere under a single federal government. Anyone who thinks this concern is irrelevant today hasn't been paying attention to the current polarization in American politics. The Electoral College helps check polarization by forcing presidential candidates to campaign in competitive states, not just swing states, instead of spending all their time trying to motivate turnout in populous partisan strongholds.

In a popular-vote contest in 2020, for example, the Democratic candidate might ignore the economically dislocated areas that Trump won and focus on the suburbs, instead of spending all their time trying to motivate turnout in populous partisan strongholds.

The Electoral College also contributes to political stability by delegating vote-counting to the states and thus delivering with rare exceptions a faster result. The uncertainty of a national vote count is a factor for president amid myriad regional irregularities — as happened in North Carolina and Florida in 2018 — would make Florida 2000 look tame.

The Electoral College abolitionists are unlikely to get a supermajority of three-fourths of states to agree to pass a constitutional amendment. The greater danger is the popular vote compact that Colorado has joined, which requires signatories to ignore their voters and grant their electoral votes to the national popular vote winner. It goes into effect once states representing 270 electoral votes sign it. The governors of New Mexico and Delaware sign



PATRICK SEEGER, DPA/via AP

A bee sucks nectar from a almond tree blossoms in Oberotweil, Germany, on Wednesday. Around 41 percent of all insect species have seen a decline in the last 10 years, according to the first global review of reports of insect population decline.

their states' bills as expected, then 14 states and the District of Columbia with 189 votes will have signed up. A Democratic sweep at the state level could one day get to 270.

The pact is likely unconstitutional. But if it succeeded it would inject more corrosive uncertainty into American elections in pursuit of a hyper-populist system that goes against the structure of the Constitution that has protected liberty for 230 years.

Why isn't combating white nationalist terrorism a priority?

Star Tribune of Minneapolis
As the world mourns the loss of 50 lives in the New Zealand mosque shooting, leaders across the globe need to stop and ask a vital question:

What is being done to prevent the next hate-filled extremist from getting swept up in a toxic mix of white supremacy and nationalism and then acting upon it to take innocent lives?

Brenton Harrison Tarrant, 28, is in custody in New Zealand and stands accused of the slaughter that took place in two houses of worship in the city of Christchurch late last week. Before he acted, Tarrant chillingly outlined in a 74-page manifesto the abhorrent ideology he embraces. It's likely that the same technology that enabled publication of his sick screed is one of the main culprits in his radicalization. The digital age has made it easier for propaganda from hate groups to metastasize.

Sadly, Minnesotans have had a front-row seat when it comes to witnessing the rise of online terror recruiting and its impact on the state's Somali-American community. In 2016, nine men from Minnesota were sentenced by a federal judge for their efforts to aid Islamic State.

While Western nations have understandably focused on Islamic extremism, similar international cooperation is needed to thwart individuals who subscribe to Tarrant's stated beliefs. Over the weekend, a Washington Post story shed light on alarmingly security gaps. The U.S. and its closest allies have built up impressive infrastructure to monitor and share intelligence about international terror, but there's no comparable approach for domestic terror.

Homegrown terrorists who espouse extremist nationalism are generally seen "as a problem for domestic law enforcement and security agencies to confront," according to the Post story, impeding the flow of information internationally. The reality is that this malignant ideology transcends national borders. Online groups have followers from around the world. They venerate killers from a wide number of nations, including the U.S.

The antiquated parameters that hinder intelligence sharing about this threat must end. Stronger recognition of the threat posed by extreme nationalists, neo-Nazis and others of a similar ilk is also needed to political leaders. In 2017, "20 of the 34 extremist-related murders in the United States, or 59 percent, were related to right-wing extremism," according to the Anti-Defamation League. The October 2018 shooting at a Pittsburgh synagogue is a painful reminder that the threat remained the following year.

The Trump administration has lent far too little support to efforts like this and, at one point, specifically pulled funding to one of the organizations working to combat right-wing terrorism.

Another critical issue that needs airing: What are social media companies' responsibilities when it comes to harboring users spreading radical, dangerous ideology? And what about their obligation to quickly shut down violent video of crimes perpetrated in real-time?

Violent right-wing extremism has thrived in part because it has fallen between the cracks of international intelligence sharing. All solutions must be pursued to prevent others from succumbing to the siren call of terror.

Worthy military construction projects shouldn't be at risk

The San Diego Union-Tribune
President Donald Trump's plan to divert \$6.6 billion from the Pentagon and the Treasury Department to help pay for the construction of a border wall is a frontal assault on the constitutional provision that gives Congress the authority to appropriate public funds. It is shocking that 41 Republican senators accepted this extralegal seizure of power.

But as illustrated by the Pentagon's newly released list of military construction projects that might have to be canceled, Trump's plan isn't just objectionable because of its constitutional overreach. It will also harm national security by forcing cancellation of projects that are necessary for the safety of members of the armed forces and for military preparedness. In the San Diego region, nearly \$170 million that was meant to be spent on construction of new Navy SEAL complex in Coronado and in jewelry at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, \$175 million in projects may be canceled, including a fire emergency response station needed to address the huge threat of intensifying wildfires. New landing pads for F-35B combat aircraft at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar and plans for infrastructure projects at Naval Air Station North Island and Naval

Base San Diego could also be scrapped.

Besides his signature concern about unauthorized immigration, Trump says a border wall is urgently needed to stop narcotics trafficking. But this is undercut by the fact that in recent years, the Drug Enforcement Administration has repeatedly reported the vast majority of illegal drugs entering the U.S. from Mexico came through ports of entry.

The president has pledged to rebuild the military after it was allegedly "totally depleted" because of budget rules approved by Congress in 2011. There is a gap between his words and his actions.

Decline in insect population also a problem for humans

Portland (Maine) Press Herald
This may surprise anyone who's been caught outside on an early summer night in Maine, but the number of insects is declining rapidly — and that's not good for anyone.

The first global review of reports of insect population decline confirmed what researchers have feared for a while — that the loss, rather than just regional, is in fact worldwide. Around 41 percent of all insect species have seen a decline in the last 10 years, the study said. By weight, insects are dying off at a rate of 2.5 percent per year, and have been for some time — which would mean complete disappearance within a century.

Some examples of the harm already, the study said, are the loss of 58 percent of butterfly species on English farmland from 2000 to 2009, and the disappearance of half of all bee species in Oklahoma from 1949 to 2013.

The dire evidence aligns with earlier studies that found a 76 percent decrease in flying insects over just a few decades. German nature preserves. Another study, which returned to the Puerto Rican rain forest after 40 years, found almost no butterflies, and far fewer birds. Moths, grasshoppers and spiders were disappearing, too; the number of frogs and birds was cut in half.

The decline of non-insect species shows how interconnected these ecosystems are — it is impossible to lose a component as essential as insects and not see a change in the lives of other, dependent species.

"Two out of every three species on Earth is an insect, and they represent an incredible diversity," Bob Peterson, president of the Entomological Society of America, told NPR about the most recent study. "Without insects, and what they do in our landscape, in our ecosystems, many of those ecosystems would completely collapse."

The latest study says changes in agriculture and land use is to blame, as well as climate change. Those factors have led to habitat loss, the widespread use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, and increasingly inhospitable temperatures in the tropics.

All of it is alarming — but scientists are still quite in the dark when it comes to the population collapse of insects. To figure out just what is happening, why and what to do about it, more widespread use of scientific data is needed. The Department of Indian Fisheries & Wildlife is teaming with Maine Audubon to study the decline here, where there are anecdotal signs of losses in butterflies, dragonflies, beetles and other insects.

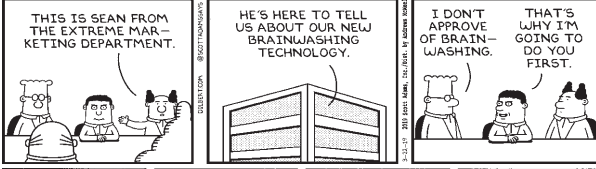
The department has put out calls to entomologists and ecologists to see what there is for data out there. Then they'll start analyzing the data, with the goal of conducting a long-term survey of insect populations.

We should pay attention to the results. There are many good reasons for fighting climate change, and for moving away from large-scale industrial agriculture. Saving insects — the building blocks of our ecosystem — may not be the most popular, but it may be one of the most important.

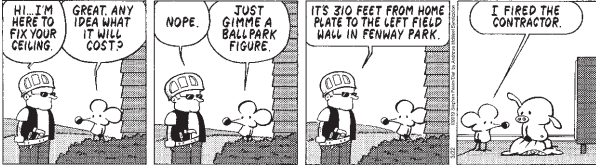
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



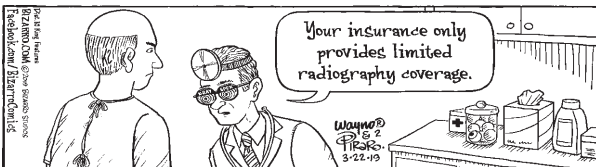
Carpe Diem



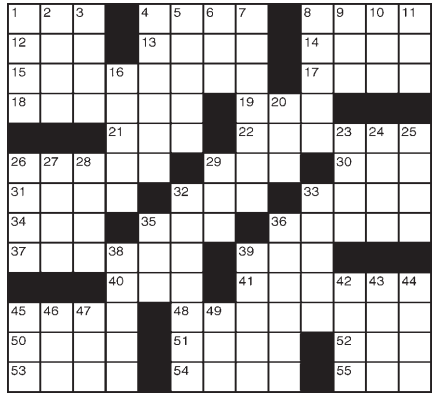
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Knock
- 4 "The Thin Man" dog
- 8 Tabloid writing
- 12 Post-op area
- 13 Pace
- 14 Alike (Fr.)
- 15 Sushi fish
- 17 "Hi, sailor!"
- 18 "Burnt" crayon color
- 19 Melody
- 21 Ordinal suffix
- 22 Game fish
- 26 Looks intently
- 29 Chaps
- 30 Man-mouse link
- 31 Has bills
- 32 — de deux
- 33 Mythical birds
- 34 Capote nickname
- 35 Stable diet?
- 36 Hill of "Moneyball"
- 37 Raw bar mollusk
- 39 Impose
- 40 Ms. Thurman
- 41 Tristan's love
- 45 Tibia's place
- 48 Saltwater fish
- 50 Mata —
- 51 Hotel chain
- 52 Hot tub
- 53 Rhyming tributes

DOWN

- 54 Lake bird
- 55 Fixed
- 26 Attend
- 27 Wrong
- 28 Jupiter counterpart
- 29 Spring month
- 32 Sunshade
- 33 Copter blade
- 35 Skirt edge
- 36 Singer Timberlake
- 38 North African capital
- 39 Steinvay product
- 42 Privation
- 43 Hoodwink
- 44 Coup d' —
- 45 HBO rival
- 46 Possessed
- 47 Hot temper
- 49 Comic Philips

Answer to Previous Puzzle



3-22

CRYPTOQUIP

FA J SQFVV ZBQYBJWR
KCGGJWSZ ZCVSFBQZ RC QFZB
RC REBFQ ABBR, F'S KJVV
REJR J ZRJWSFWY CQSBQ.

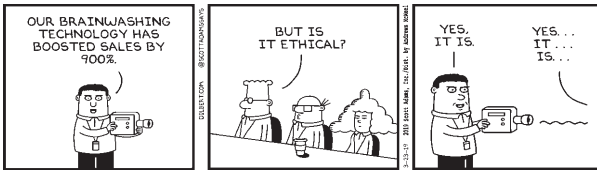
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE OWLS ARE NOCTURNAL AND PROBABLY GO HUNTING AT NIGHT, I WOULD CALL THEM BEDTIME PREYERS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals L

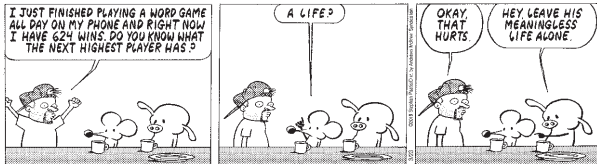
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11
12							13					
14							15					
16						17	18			19		
		20	21					22	23			
24	25	26		27			28		29		30	31
32			33					34				
35				36						37		
		38		39		40			41			
42	43			44	45				46	47	48	49
50			51				52	53				
54								55				
56								57				

ACROSS

- Went out with
- Chinese martial art
- Moolah
- Skiffill
- Sheathe
- Mountain chain
- Stadium cheers
- Quaker pronoun
- Profit
- Canadian gas brand
- City area, for short
- Gun lobby org.
- Male turkeys
- Show ennu
- Pale, sweet fruit
- Riga resident
- "I smell —!"
- Despondent
- Hem's partner
- Jealousy
- Prefix with athlete
- Early automaker
- Burden
- Aplenty
- Strange thing
- "Can you give me directions?"
- Family girls
- Goes angling
- Tennessee county

DOWN

- Lady of Spain
- Eyebrow shape
- Rib
- German river
- Fresca, e.g.
- Hit with a stun gun
- Farewell
- Hot temper
- Like "Green Acres" humor
- Employ
- "Let's leave — that"
- German article
- Hit one out of the park
- Farm pen
- Reuben bread
- Stanley Cup org.
- Caviar base
- Mounds built by insects
- Final performance
- Romance
- SSE's opposite
- JFK info
- VJ's network
- Not as good
- Alpine air?
- Pre-weekend cry
- Male of "Bohemian Rhapsody"
- Reply to "Shall we?"
- Pleasing
- Western tribe
- Method (Abbr.)
- Reaction to fireworks
- Cato's 502

Answer to Previous Puzzle

RAP	ASTA	PULP
ICU	GAIT	EGAL
MACKEREL	AHOY	
SIENNA	AIR	
	ETH	SALMON
GAZES	MEN	ORA
OWES	PAS	ROCS
TRU	HAY	JONAH
OYSTER	PUT	
	UMA	ISOLDE
SHIN	SEAT	ROUT
HART	OMNI	SPA
ODES	LOON	SET

3-23

CRYPTOQUIP

LO BZP PN UNPDOI IOUH NP

ESZE NUK INBJOE EN UYAE

NAA ESO DINCPK. YE'F PNE

ESICFE-LNIESH.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A DRILL SERGEANT COMMANDS SOLDIERS TO RISE TO THEIR FEET, I'D CALL THAT A STANDING ORDER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals G

USAG BAVARIA - GRAFENWOEHR
SEVENTH ANNUAL

RUGGED TERRAIN OBSTACLE RUN

APRIL 6
RUN STARTS AT 9 A.M.

Open to ID Card holders and NATO Forces 18 years of age and over.

➔ 16+ Kilometers

➔ Over 20 Obstacles

➔ Individuals \$30 Per Person

➔ Teams \$25 Per Person

➔ COMPLETE THE RUN TO EARN A COMMEMORATIVE T-SHIRT

VISIT GRAFENWOEHR.ARMYMWR.COM TO REGISTER



DOWNLOAD & FILL OUT REGISTRATION FORM & SEND AN ENCRYPTED EMAIL TO
USARMY.BAVARIA.ID-EUROPE.LIST.FITNESS-PROGRAMS@MAIL.MIL

TOWER BARRACKS PHYSICAL FITNESS CENTER
8170 Gettysburg Avenue, Tower Barracks
DSN 475-9007, CIV 09641-83-9007



U.S. ARMY
MWR
USAG BAVARIA



Stripes SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Attorneys

178

Transportation

944

Court & Carpenter
MILITARY DEFENSE LAWYERS

**THE LOCAL CIVILIAN
MILITARY DEFENSE FIRM**

Sauerwiesen 2, Kaiserslautern-
Siegelbach, Germany 67661

(833) 446-UCMJ (x8265)
www.militarylawfirm.com

Dental

902

VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

- International Shipping
- Import & Export
- Inland trucking (U.S. & Europe)
- Door to door pick-up/delivery service
- Customs clearance
- All Risk Marine Insurance
- Auto Insurance (Germany only)

For Further Information Please Contact

GERMANY Phone: +49-(0)6134-2592730 Toll-free: 0800-CARSHIP (Germany only) E-Mail: info@transglobal-logistics.de WEB: www.transglobal-logistics.de	UNITED KINGDOM +44-(0)1638-515714 enquiries@carshipuk.co.uk www.carshipuk.co.uk	U.S.A. +1-972-602-1670 Ext. 1701 +1-800-264-8167 (US only) info@tgal.us www.tgal.us
--	---	--

For 2nd POV Shipments - Offices / Agencies near Military Installations

Trans Global
LOGISTICS EUROPE GMBH

**AMERICAN
DOCTORS
& STAFF**
Creating Healthy Smiles

- Certified Orthodontics
- American Dental Hygienists
- Family Dentistry

**6 TIME
WINNER**
Stripes Best
Dentist
2019

Ramstein Dental Care
06371 406 230
Poststrasse 1,
66877 Ramstein
Ramsteindental.com

**4 TIME
WINNER**
Stripes Best
Dentist
2019

Wiesbaden Dental Care
06119 887 26 50
Bahnstrasse 14,
65205 Wiesbaden
Wiesbadendental.com

TRICARE Preferred Provider

Transportation 944

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA

WSA
WORLDWIDE SHIPPING AGENCY

OPENING HOURS: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon - Fri
0800-522-6274 or 800-WSA-SHIP (872-7447)
For a free rate request, please email: info@worldwide-ship.de
Visit our Website: www.worldwide-ship.de



Off Duty? Amuse Yourself!

Concerts, events,
TV, movies,
music, video games,
celebrity antics...

Get entertained with...

STARS AND STRIPES

Want a better picture?

You'll get one – just by reading
Stars and Stripes military news coverage.

In print • Online at stripes.com • Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad
No one covers the bases the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES
However you read us, wherever you need us.

Round-the-world news for America's military.

Stripes.com supplies constant updates, on news of interest — including reports from our overseas military bases in Europe, Pacific, Southwest Asia and the Mideast, and coverage of the Pentagon and Capitol Hill. Also available on mobile apps for Android smartphones and as an iOS app for both iPhone and iPad.

STARS AND STRIPES


Mobile • Online • Print

FREE AD Guidelines:

- Free ads are available only DOD ID Card holders selling personal merchandise.
- Ads may contain up to 32 words. All Ads must contain price and contact information. No websites will be accepted in Free ads.
- Stars and Stripes reserves the right to re-classify, rewrite and reject any ads.

CLASSIFIED

Go to stripes.com to place your free ad. *Sell fast! Buy fast*

When you see this 
camera icon go to stripes.com
to view the uploaded photo.

Advertising	EUROPE	MIDDLE EAST	PACIFIC
Kristi Kimmel kimmel.kristi@stripes.com +49(0)631-3615-9013 DSN 314,583,9013	Kristi Kimmel kimmel.kristi@stripes.com +49(0)631-3615-9013 DSN 314,583,9013	Kristi Kimmel kimmel.kristi@stripes.com +49(0)631-3615-9013 DSN 314,583,9013	Ichiro Katayanagi CustomerHelp@stripes.com +81(3) 6385,3267 DSN 315,229,3267
Van Rowell rowell.van@stripes.com +49(0)631,3615,9111 DSN 314,583,9111	Robert Reismann reismann.robert@stripes.com +49(0)631,3615,9150 DSN 314,583,9150		Mari Matsumoto SSPCirculation@stripes.com +81(3) 6385,3171 DSN 315,229,3171
Readers Letters letters@stripes.com			letters@stripes.com

Classifieds EUROPE

For information on Commercial Rates: CIV: 0631-3615-9012 or DSN: 583-9012

Announcements 040

Automotive 140

Travel 1000

Tax Assistance 940

SCAM FADS

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classified advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam fads are:

- Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.

- People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

SELLER BEWARE

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

"Spring in Garmisch"
Hotel Forsthaus Oberau 8 km
N of Garmisch-Hofgastein
3909 P.P. DDL occp. free priest,
dogs welcome. 08926-9120
www.forsthaus-oberau.de



Autos for Sale
- Germany 142

Auto • Quality Priced
US SPEC Vehicles
www.classicmilitaryautosales.com
Free Europe-wide delivery



H&R BLOCK®



Germany H&R Block Tax
Offices Get face-to-face tax help.

Ramstein Wiesbaden Vilseck
06371-8020410 06134-256963 01735-736112

Email: eclemmons@hrblock.com

Free Classifieds!

Visit Stripes.com for details.

|| STARS AND STRIPES

Sell Your Stuff!



Take the fuss out of packing up for your next PCS—sell everything with Stars *free classifieds!*

STARS AND STRIPES

STARS AND STRIPES

Relocation Guide

To advertise in the next Relocation Guide, reach out to Michael Davidson at davidson.michael@stripes.com or call 202-886-0014.





Patricia Garcia
Realtor®/MRP sandiegomilitaryspecialist@gmail.com
or call 619.372.9335
www.glurealty.com

This program is specifically offered to help those who serve our community and go above and beyond to make our community and lives better.

- FREE APPRAISAL
- FREE HOME WARRANTY
- CLOSING COST CREDITS
- COMPLIMENTARY HOUSE WARMING PARTY



BIGLOCK
Real Estate

PCS-ing to LUKE AIR FORCE BASE?

Search for homes for sale at
www.LukeAirForceBaseSpecialist.com



G-II VARRATO II
Arizona State
Director at VAREP
Veterans Association of Real Estate Professionals



Lori & G-II
Coldwell Banker
LoriAtLukeAirForceBaseSpecialist.com

Client Endorsements
<http://tinyurl.com/ClientEndorsementsALoriNG2>

RELOCATING TO HAMPTON ROADS, VA?

Realty Services for Those Who Serve!
Purchase, Sale, Rental, Prop Mgmt

ERIC GARDNER
REALTOR®
ASSOC. BROKER, REALTOR®, CRS, GRI, ABR
MILITARY RELOCATION SPECIALIST
Call: (757) 805-6235
EricGardner@remax.net
www.FlyNavyHomes.com
RE/MAX Alliance
1111 Oldham Road, Suite 100, Virginia Beach, VA 23462

OVER \$50K IN VET REWARDS 2017/18



Want a better picture?

You'll get one – just by reading Stars and Stripes military news coverage.
In print • Online at stripes.com • Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad
No one covers the bases the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us, wherever you need us.

Round-the-world news for America's military.

Stripes.com supplies constant updates, on news of interest — including reports from our overseas military bases in Europe, Pacific, Southwest Asia and the Mideast, and coverage of the Pentagon and Capitol Hill. Also available on mobile apps for Android smartphones and as an iOS app for both iPhone and iPad.

STARS AND STRIPES
Mobile • Online • Print

Career **CENTER**

Are you in the picture?



Reading *Stars and Stripes* gives you a better handle on issues that affect you most.
No one covers the bases the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES

In print • Online at stripes.com • Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad



Troops to Teachers is a military career transition program that helps eligible members of the armed forces begin new careers as K-12 public school teachers. Skills acquired in the military like leadership, initiative, discipline, integrity, and the ability to thrive in an ever-changing environment are a natural fit for the classroom.

Apply at proudtoserveagain.com.
Become a part of the Texas teaching family.

Contact us at texastroopstoteachers.org
or 800-810-5484.

Oh! The Places You'll See with

STARS AND STRIPES



Visit before you go!

Stripes.com/travel Japan.Stripes.com
Europe.Stripes.com Korea.Stripes.com
Guam.Stripes.com Okinawa.Stripes.com

SPORTS BOARD

Sports on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules. myafn.net

College baseball

Wednesday's scores

EAST
Jefferson 8, Wake Forest 2
Thiel 17, Pitt-Greensburg 12
SOUTH
Duke 12, Duke 6
West. Stevens Point 14, MCLA 2
MIDWEST
Heidelberg 16, Adrian 5
McKendree 15, Mo. St. Louis 4
Mount Mercy 11, William Penn 2-2
FAR WEST
New Mexico 8, Oklahoma 6

Tennis

Miami Open

Wednesday
At Hard Rock Stadium
Miami Gardens
Purse: ATP, \$5.36 million (Masters 1000); WTA, \$5.24 million (Premier)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles Men
First Round
Federico Delbonis, Argentina, def. Peter Gojowczyk, Germany, 6-4, 6-2.
Nicola Pietrangeli, Argentina, def. Denis Kudla, United States, 6-1, 6-2.
Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany, def. Bradley Klahn, United States, 6-3, 6-4.
Mikhail Kukushkin, Kazakhstan, def. Andrius Panavas, Lithuania, 6-3, 6-2.
Mikhael Zverev, Germany, def. Nicola Pietrangeli, Argentina, 6-3, 6-2.
Hubert Hurkacz, Poland, def. Matteo Berrettini, Italy, 6-4, 6-2.

Women
First Round
Maria Sakic, Greece, def. Olga Danilovic, Serbia, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4.
Victoria Azarenka, Belarus, def. Dominika Cibulkova, Slovakia, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4.

Sara Sorribes Tormo, Spain, def. Aleksandra Krunichic, Serbia, 6-4, 6-0.
Kristina Sinikovic, Czech Republic, def. Zheng Saisai, China, 6-3, 6-1.
Amel Anisimovic, United States, def. Andreea Petkovic, Germany, 6-4, 6-3.
Sam Stosur, Australia, def. Evgeniya Rodina, Russia, 6-4, 6-2.
Natalia Vikhlyantseva, Slovakia, def. Natalia Vikhlyantseva, Slovakia, 6-1, 7-5, 6-7.
Yulia Putintseva, Kazakhstan, def. Kirsten Flipkens, Belgium, 4-6, 6-4, 7-5.
Dayana Yastremska, Ukraine, def. Ekaterina Alexandrova, Russia, 6-3, 6-2.
Marketa Vondrousova, Czech Republic, def. Barbora Strýcová, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-2.
Pauline Parmentier, France, def. Margarita Gasparayán, Russia, 6-4, 6-1, 7-6, 0-6.
Wang Xiyu, China, def. Monica Puig, Puerto Rico, 6-3, 6-1.

College hockey

Conference tournaments

ATLANTIC HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
At Buffalo, N.Y.

Semifinals
Friday, March 22
American International vs. Robert Morris
Sat. vs. Maryland

Championship
Sat. vs. Maryland

SEVEN CONFERENCE
Championship
Sat. at Notre Dame

ECAC
At Lake Placid, N.Y.

Semifinals
Friday, March 22
Brown vs. Cornell
Harvard vs. Clarkson

Championship
Sat. vs. Clarkson

HOCKEY EAST
At Boston

Semifinals
Friday, March 22
Boston University vs. Northeastern
UMass vs. Boston College

Championship
Saturday, March 23
Semifinal winners

NCHC
At Saint Paul, Minn.

Semifinals
Friday, March 22
St. Cloud State vs. College of the Holy Cross
Minnesota Duluth vs. Denver

Championship
Saturday, March 23
Semifinal winners

WCHA
At Mankato, Minn.

Semifinals
Friday, March 22
Bowling Green vs. Minnesota State

College basketball

Men's NIT

First Round
Tuesday, March 19
UNC-Greensboro 84, Campbell 69
Lipscomb 89, Davidson 81
N.C. State 84, Hofstra 79
Indiana 85, St. Francis (Pa.) 72
Clemson 75, Wright State 68
Cincinnati 74, San Diego 68
Arkansas 84, Providence 72
South Dakota 74, Georgetown 73
Creighton 70, Loyola of Chicago 61
Cleveland 78, Dayton 73

Second Round
Wednesday, March 20
North Carolina 76, Furman 70
Georgetown 71, Georgetown 69
Norfolk State 80, Alabama 79, OT
Texas 80, Toledo 64
TCU 82, Sam Houston State 69
NCU 80, Butler 76

Third Round
Thursday, March 21
Arkansas (18-15) at Indiana (18-15)
Wichita State (20-14) at Clemson (20-13)
Final Four
Lipscomb (26-7) at UNC-Greensboro (29-6)
Norfolk State (22-13) at Cleveland (22-12)
Xavier (19-15) vs. Texas (17-16)
Memphis (23-10) at Creighton (19-14)
TCU (21-13) vs. Nebraska (19-16)

CBI
First Round
Tuesday, March 19
Utah Valley 92, CS Northridge 84
West Virginia 77, Grand Canyon 63
Kent State 78, Cleveland 72
South Florida 82, Stony Brook 79, OT
Stanford 90, Southern Mississippi 68
DePaul 100, Central Michigan 86
UAB 78, Loyola Marymount 56, Cal Baptist 55

Quarterfinals
Monday, March 25
West Virginia (15-20) vs. Coastal Carolina (16-16)
South Florida (20-13) vs. Utah Valley (24-10)
DePaul (16-15) vs. Longwood (16-17)
Loyola Marymount (21-11) vs. Brown (20-11)

CIT
First Round
Monday, March 18
NJIT 92, Quinnipiac 81
Marquette 81, Saint Louis 77
Robert Morris 98, Cornell 89, OT
Marshall 75, IUPUI 73

Wednesday, March 20
Green Bay 102, Fresno Valley 90
Texas Tech 85, New Orleans 89, OT
Texas State 78, Eastern Wash. 74, Grambling State 73
Presbyterian 73, Seattle 68
Saint Francis (N.Y.) 77-115 at Hampton (16-17)
FAU (17-15) at Charleston Southern (17-15)
Kent State (22-10) at Louisiana-Monroe (18-15)
Fullerton (16-17)
Florida (24-9) at Southern Utah (16-16)
Drake (19-13) at Texas Tech (24-10)
First Round
Top 4 seeds will get a bye after first round

Men's NCAA Division II Tournament
Quarterfinals
At Evansville, Ind.
Wednesday, March 27
Mercyhurst vs. Northwood
Saint Anselm vs. Southern Indiana
Northwestern vs. Queens (NC)
Texas A&M vs. Point Loma
Semifinals
Thursday, March 28
Northwestern vs. Southern Indiana
Texas A&M vs. Point Loma
West Texas A&M vs. Southern Indiana
Queens (NC) vs. Point Loma

NAIA Men's Tournament
At Kansas City, Mo.
First Round
Wednesday, March 20
Bethel (Tenn.) 77, John Carroll 57
Lewis-Clark State 71, Campbellville 70
St. Joseph 68, William Jewell 65
LSU-Alexandria 81, Central Baptist 67
Cumberlands (Ky.) 77, William Penn 69
Vanguard 53
Loyola (Mo.) 68, Missouri Baptist 67
Georgetown (Ky.) 77, Georgetown 67
Thursday, March 21
Talladega vs. Pikeville
Cumberlands (Ky.) vs. Wiley
Thoma's (Tenn.) vs. Carroll (Mont.)
Mid-America Christian vs. Tougaloo
Perrin State vs. William Carey
Westmont vs. Benedictine (Kan.)
Sciences and Arts vs. The Masters

Women's NCAA Division II Tournament
First Round
Wednesday, March 20
St. Cloud State vs. College of the Holy Cross
Minnesota Duluth vs. Denver
Championship
Saturday, March 23
Semifinal winners

WCHA
At Mankato, Minn.

Semifinals
Friday, March 22
Bowling Green vs. Minnesota State

Saturday, March 23

At Waco, Texas
California (19-12) vs. North Carolina (18-14)
Baylor (31-1) vs. Abilene Christian (23-9)
Kentucky (24-7) vs. Princeton (22-9)
N.C. State (26-5) vs. Maine (22-7)

PORTLAND REGIONAL
Friday, March 22
At Seaside, Ore.
South Dakota (25-5) vs. Clemson (19-12)
Mississippi State (30-2) vs. Southern Utah (20-12)
At Coral Gables, Fla.
Arizona State (20-10) vs. UTSA (26-6)
Miami (24-8) vs. Florida Gulf Coast (26-4)
At Eugene, Ore.
Texas (29-9) vs. Indiana (20-12)
Oregon (23-5) vs. Portland State (25-7)
Saturday, March 23
At Syracuse, N.Y.
South Dakota State (26-6) vs. Quinnipiac (26-6)
Syracuse (24-8) vs. Fordham (24-8)

CHICAGO REGIONAL
First Round
Friday, March 22
At College Station, Texas
Marquette (26-7) vs. Rice (28-3)
Texas A&M (24-7) vs. Wright State (27-6)
Saturday, March 23
At Notre Dame, Ind.
Notre Dame (30-3) vs. Bethune-Cookman (10-10)
Central Michigan (25-7) vs. Michigan State (20-11)
At Ames, Iowa
DePaul (26-7) vs. Missouri State (22-9)
Iowa State (25-8) vs. New Mexico State (25-6)
At St. Louis, Mo.
BYU (25-5) vs. Auburn (22-9)
Stanford (26-6) vs. North Carolina (24-6)
ALBANY REGIONAL
Friday, March 22
At Louisville, Ky.
Louisville (26-7) vs. Robert Morris (22-11)
Michigan (21-11) vs. Kansas State (21-11)
At Storrs, Conn.
Rutgers (23-9) vs. Buffalo (16-19)
UConn (31-2) vs. Towson (20-12)
Saturday, March 23
At Corvallis, Ore.
Gonzaga (26-6) vs. Life Lock (21-10)
Oregon State (24-7) vs. Boise State (28-4)
At College Park, Md.
Maryland (29-9) vs. Radford (26-6)
UCLA (20-12) vs. Tennessee (19-12)

WNIT
First Round
Wednesday, March 20
Morehead State 71, St. Michael's 61
Petterdine 91, Cal Baptist 79
Pacific 77, Fresno State 69
Thursday, March 21
Charlotte (18-12) at VCU (23-9)
Houston (25-6) at Troy (22-8)
Cincinnati (18-12) at Arkansas (20-14)
UAB (25-6) at Troy (22-8)
Cincinnati (18-12) at Arkansas (20-14)
Northern Iowa (22-11) at Butler (21-12)
St. John's (22-11) at Cleveland (22-11)
Rider (19-12) at West Virginia (20-10)
Seton Hall (12-15) at Middle Tennessee (22-10)
Prairie View A&M (17-13) at TCU (20-10)
Dayton (17-12) at Northwestern (16-14)
Stephen F. Austin (25-8) at Texas-Army (22-7)
Northern Colorado (21-10) at Wyoming (22-8)
Reno (17-13) at New Mexico (24-6)
Idaho State (20-10) at Arizona (18-13)
Idaho State (20-10) at Arizona (18-13)
Idaho State (20-10) at Arizona (18-13)
Friday, March 22
Old Dominion (21-10) at Villanova (18-12)
NC A&T (20-11) at Jacksonville (25-5)
Drexel (24-8) at Harvard (16-12)
Georgia Tech (19-12) at Georgetown (16-15)
Northern Iowa (22-11) at Pennsylvania (23-6)
Northern Iowa (22-11) at Minnesota (20-10)
South Alabama (24-8) at Lamar (24-10)
Hawaii (22-10) at Saint Mary's (20-11)

WBI
First Round
Wednesday, March 20
Appalachian State 57, UNC Asheville 55
Marshall 67, Davidson 66
North Texas 56, Texas Rio Grande Valley 55
Utah State 68, UC Riverside 60
Utah State 68, UC Riverside 60
Thursday, March 21
Campbell at Maryland
Nicholls at Southern Mississippi
Georgia Tech at North Alabama
Akron at Tennessee Tech

Women's NCAA Division II Tournament
Quarterfinals
At Columbus, Ohio
Tuesday, March 26
Indiana (Pa.) vs. Southwestern Oklahoma State
Saint Anselm vs. Drury
North Southern vs. North Georgia
Lubbock Christian vs. Azusa Pacific
Semifinals
Wednesday, March 27
Indiana (Pa.) vs. Azusa Pacific
North Southern vs. North Georgia
Lubbock Christian vs. North Georgia

Pro football

AAF

EASTERN CONFERENCE
W L T Pct PF PA
Orlando 5 4 0 .563 99 93
Birmingham 4 2 0 .667 123 93
Atlanta 2 4 0 .333 73 160
Memphis 1 5 0 .167 90 135

WESTERN CONFERENCE
W L T Pct PF PA
San Antonio 4 2 0 .667 133 116
San Diego 2 4 0 .333 111 111
Arizona 3 3 0 .500 131 123
Salt Lake 2 4 0 .333 112 121

Sunday games
Orlando at Atlanta
San Antonio at San Diego
San Diego at Atlanta
Birmingham at Memphis
Saturday, March 30
Orlando at Memphis
San Antonio at Salt Lake
Sunday, March 31
Atlanta at Birmingham
Arizona at San Antonio

Pro baseball

Springs training
AMERICAN LEAGUE
W L Pct.
New York 15 5 .682
Houston 14 10 .583
Oakland 11 8 5 .579
Cleveland 10 9 5 .526
Kansas City 12 5 5 .566
Baltimore 12 5 5 .566
Los Angeles 12 5 5 .566
Milwaukee 11 12 4 .478
Toronto 11 12 4 .478
Texas 11 13 4 .458
Boston 11 12 4 .478
Chicago 16 3 .840

NATIONAL LEAGUE
W L Pct.
San Diego 15 5 .682
Washington 15 5 .682
Chicago 11 5 5 .577
Milwaukee 11 5 5 .577
San Francisco 12 5 5 .566
Pittsburgh 12 5 5 .566
San Diego 12 5 5 .566
Philadelphia 11 12 4 .478
Cincinnati 11 12 4 .478
Arizona 11 13 4 .458
Colorado 11 14 4 .440
New York 9 13 4 .409
St. Louis 9 13 4 .409

Wednesday's games
Pittsburgh at Milwaukee
Detroit 3, Philadelphia 1
Houston 3, N.Y. Yankees 1
Cincinnati 3, St. Louis 9
Miami 8, Toronto 7
Cincinnati 6, Texas 1
Arizona 1, Chicago White Sox 2
Milwaukee 3, Cleveland 6
Boston 6, Baltimore 4
Cincinnati 3, L.A. Angels 2
Kansas City 8, Colorado 7
L.A. Dodgers 4, Chicago Cubs 4
San Francisco 13, Cleveland 6
Thursday's games
Baltimore vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla.
Atlanta vs. Tampa Bay (ss) at Port Charlotte, Fla.
Houston vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla.
N.Y. Yankees vs. St. Louis (ss) at Jupiter, Fla.
Pittsburgh vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater, Fla.
San Diego vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla.
Kansas City vs. Cincinnati (ss) at Goodyear, Ariz.
San Francisco vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz.
Cincinnati vs. Texas (ss) at Surprise, Ariz.
L.A. Dodgers vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix
Cincinnati vs. Chicago White Sox at Glendale, Ariz.
L.A. Angels vs. Arizona at Scottsdale, Ariz.
Tampa Bay (ss) vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla.
St. Louis (ss) vs. Washington at West Palm Beach, Fla.
Cincinnati (ss) vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz.
Friday's games
Pittsburgh vs. Tampa Bay at Port Charlotte, Fla.
St. Louis vs. N.Y. Mets (ss) at Port St. Lucie, Fla.
L.A. Angels vs. L.A. Dodgers at Glendale, Ariz.
Texas vs. Chicago Cubs (ss) at Mesa, Ariz.
Cincinnati vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix
Chicago White Sox vs. L.A. Angels (ss) at Tempe, Ariz.
Detroit vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla.
Boston vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla.
N.Y. Mets (ss) vs. Houston at West Palm Beach, Fla.
Baltimore vs. Toronto at Dunedin, Fla.
Philadelphia vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa Bay, Fla.
Washington vs. Miami at Jupiter, Fla.
Cincinnati vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater, Fla.
Surprise, Ariz.
San Francisco vs. St. Louis at Peoria, Ariz.
Cincinnati (ss) vs. Cleveland at Goodyear, Ariz.
San Diego vs. Colorado at Scottsdale, Ariz.
L.A. Angels (ss) vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz.
Cincinnati vs. San Francisco (ss) at Scottsdale, Ariz.

Pro soccer

MLS
EASTERN CONFERENCE
W L T Pts GF GA
D.C. United 2 0 0 7 4 1
Columbus 2 0 0 7 4 1
Toronto 2 0 0 6 6 4
Montreal 1 1 0 4 5 2
New York 1 0 1 4 5 2
Chicago 1 0 1 4 5 2
New York City FC 3 0 3 3 4 4
Minnesota United 1 0 3 3 4 4
Sporting KC 1 0 2 2 4 4
Atlanta 0 2 1 1 4 7
New England 0 2 1 1 4 7
Philadelphia 0 2 1 1 4 7

WESTERN CONFERENCE
W L T Pts GF GA
Seattle 2 0 0 7 4 1
Los Angeles FC 2 0 0 7 4 1
Houston 2 0 0 6 6 4
Minnesota United 2 0 0 6 6 4
LA Galaxy 1 1 0 6 5 5
Portland 1 1 0 6 5 5
FC Dallas 1 1 0 6 5 5
Real Salt Lake 1 1 0 6 5 5
Colorado 0 2 2 4 4 6
Portland 0 2 0 4 4 10
Vancouver 0 2 0 4 4 7
San Jose 0 3 0 0 2 9
Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Saturday's games
Colorado at FC Dallas
Columbus at Philadelphia
Orlando at New York
Real Salt Lake at Los Angeles FC
Cincinnati at New England
New York City FC at Toronto FC
Sunday, March 30
New York City FC at Toronto FC
Minnesota United at New England
Sporting Kansas City at Kansas City
Los Angeles FC at San Jose
Colorado at Columbus
Philadelphia at Cincinnati
FC Dallas at Real Salt Lake
Vancouver at Colorado
Seattle at Vancouver
Sunday, March 31
D.C. United at Orlando City
Portland at LA Galaxy

Pro soccer

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE
W L T Pts GF GA
D.C. United 2 0 0 7 4 1
Columbus 2 0 0 7 4 1
Toronto 2 0 0 6 6 4
Montreal 1 1 0 4 5 2
New York 1 0 1 4 5 2
Chicago 1 0 1 4 5 2
New York City FC 3 0 3 3 4 4
Minnesota United 1 0 3 3 4 4
Sporting KC 1 0 2 2 4 4
Atlanta 0 2 1 1 4 7
New England 0 2 1 1 4 7
Philadelphia 0 2 1 1 4 7

WESTERN CONFERENCE
W L T Pts GF GA
Seattle 2 0 0 7 4 1
Los Angeles FC 2 0 0 7 4 1
Houston 2 0 0 6 6 4
Minnesota United 2 0 0 6 6 4
LA Galaxy 1 1 0 6 5 5
Portland 1 1 0 6 5 5
FC Dallas 1 1 0 6 5 5
Real Salt Lake 1 1 0 6 5 5
Colorado 0 2 2 4 4 6
Portland 0 2 0 4 4 10
Vancouver 0 2 0 4 4 7
San Jose 0 3 0 0 2 9
Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Saturday's games
Colorado at FC Dallas
Columbus at Philadelphia
Orlando at New York
Real Salt Lake at Los Angeles FC
Cincinnati at New England
New York City FC at Toronto FC
Sunday, March 30
New York City FC at Toronto FC
Minnesota United at New England
Sporting Kansas City at Kansas City
Los Angeles FC at San Jose
Colorado at Columbus
Philadelphia at Cincinnati
FC Dallas at Real Salt Lake
Vancouver at Colorado
Seattle at Vancouver
Sunday, March 31
D.C. United at Orlando City
Portland at LA Galaxy

Deals

Wednesday's transactions
RASBAL
American League
CLEVELAND INDIANS — Released RHP Tyler Clippard and signed him to a minor league contract. Re-assigned RHP A.J. Cole to Triple-A.
DETROIT TIGERS — Options RHP Ryan Carpenter to Toledo (IL).
HOUSTON ASTROS — Agreed to terms with RHP Ryan Pressly on a three-year contract.
LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Agreed to terms with RHP Ryan Pressly on a three-year contract.
MINNAPOLIS TWINS — Released L.R. Lucas. Reassigned RHP Ryan Eades and Jake Reed. LHP Justin Nicolino and C. J. Hawley to minor league camp.
TAMPA BAY RAYS — Agreed to terms with RHP Brandon Lowe on a six-year contract.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Agreed to terms with Anthony Alford and C. Reese McNair to Buffalo (IL).
NATIONAL LEAGUE
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Options OF Tim Lincecum to Reno (PCL).
LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Options RHP Jaime Schults to Oklahoma City (PCL). Options RHP JT Chargois to their minor league camp.
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Options LHP Jarin Garcia to New Orleans (PCL).
PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Released RHP Josh Tomlin. Signed RHP Josh Fields to a minor-league contract.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Options RHP Jake Barrett to Indianapolis (IL). Reassigned OF Brandon Lowe to a six-year contract.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Options LHP Austin Gomber and RHP Daniel Ponce de Leon to the Memphis (PCL).
National Basketball Association
DETROIT PISTONS — Options OF Jahlil Thomas and SF Mykhailko to Grand Rapids (NBA).
FOOTBALL
CHICAGO BEARS — Options P Pat O'Donnell to a two-year contract and QB Matt Ryan to a one-year contract.
HOUSTON TEXANS — Signed QB A.J. McCarron.
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Re-signed S Clayton Kershaw.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Signed OL Josh Jenkins.
INDIANAPOLIS RAIDERS — Re-signed LB Trent Sengle.
Balance of American Football
SAN DIEGO FALCONS — Waived OL Brandon Hodges. Re-signed WR Shay Fields.
One-year league contracts
DETROIT PISTONS — Options G Jimmy Howard to a one-year contract extension. Re-called D-Libor Sukut from Grand Rapids (AHL) under emergency conditions.
OLYMPIC SOCCER
USA — Announced cyclist Joseph Brannaman to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic team for an anti-doping rule violation.
Major League Soccer
TORONTO — Loaned F Jon Bakero to Phoenix (USL Championship).

NBA/NFL

Splash Mountain

Bucks C Lopez one of league's most unlikely three-point weapons

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

In case more proof was needed that the game of basketball has changed wildly in the last few years, check out the starting center for the team with the best record in the NBA — he is often nowhere near the basket.

It's by design. Milwaukee's Brook Lopez hardly ever took three-pointers in high school, or college, or his first eight seasons in the NBA. He's a 7-footer, and 7-footers were told forever to go to the low post and wait to see if someone throws you the ball. Those days are largely gone and perhaps no NBA big man has seen his job description change more than Lopez.

He's taken more three-pointers this season — 461 and counting — than any 7-footer in any NBA season. And that comes after he was 3-for-31, total, from beyond the arc in his first five seasons as a pro, with many of those heaves coming in end-of-game or end-of-shot-clock situations.

"In our practice facility we have boxes out deep beyond the three-point line, from areas we know we can get reps at," Lopez said. "Eventually, you just get the confidence to take them in games."

Clearly, he's not lacking for confidence.

Per the data that the NBA tracks, Lopez is 6-for-15 from 30 feet or deeper this season. In 63 of his 72 games with the Bucks, he's taken more three-pointers than he has two-pointers.

This is an age where everyone is shooting the three ball, and the NBA record for three-pointers made will soon fall for a seventh consecutive season, but the biggest guys on the floor represent the biggest demographic in the newfound commitment to shooting from deep — with veterans like Lopez, Detroit's Blake Griffin and Toronto's Marc Gasol have gone from rarely shooting them to having the three in their everyday repertoire in recent years.

"We analyze four-point shooters. That's what we call them," Bucks general manager Jon Horst said. "To be a four-point shooter, you have to shoot above the break. You have to shoot from 30-plus feet. You're not shooting that from the corner or the side. You're shooting above the break and in our style of play ... being able to shoot above the break is a real benefit to our team."

The above-the-break three — it basically means any shot not taken from the corners or low on the sidelines — has been Lopez's forte this season. He's tried nearly 400 of those.

It is a dramatic change from his early days. In his first 490 NBA regular-season games,



TONY DEJAK/AP

The Bucks' Brook Lopez, left, drives against the Cavaliers' Collin Sexton on Wednesday in Cleveland. After taking just 31 three-pointers in the first eight years of his career, Lopez has taken more three-pointers this season — 461 and counting — than any 7-footer in NBA history.

Lopez made four three-pointers. In game No. 491, he made four in that one alone. The switch in his game looks like it started overnight, but the fact is that the outside shot was always something Lopez felt comfortable taking. He just needed an invitation.

Enter Brooklyn coach Kenny Atkinson. When Lopez played there in 2016-17, Atkinson gave him the green light to take threes.

Lopez hasn't stopped taking them since. And when Milwaukee coach Mike Budenholzer sat down to figure out the best ideas for his first season with the Bucks, taking advantage of Lopez's skills from deep quickly became an important part of the plan.

"There was no making peace with it," Budenholzer said. "Brook obviously had done a lot of three-point shooting in Brooklyn with Kenny and that was a big part of the vision in bringing him to Milwaukee. Some of them that are super-deep, I kind of wonder and I'm not sure that was the vision. But I'm beyond comfortable and beyond appreciative of what Brook does."

That's clearly the case. Lopez was 10-for-12 from three-point range in a two-point loss to Phoenix back in November. The very next night against San Antonio, Milwaukee ran its first play of the game for Lopez — who tried a 27-footer.

Swish.

"When that happens, you've got to keep shooting," Lopez said.

For the Bucks, Lopez has been a perfect fit. Not only has the three-pointer been a weapon — he shoots 37 percent from distance, part of the reason why he's embraced the "Splash Mountain" nickname that became popular earlier this season — but it has also been most valuable in creating lanes for Milwaukee star and MVP candidate Giannis Antetokounmpo to do his thing in the lane and around the basket.

Without Lopez down there, and without whoever the opposing big is guarding him down there, the Bucks create tons of space where Antetokounmpo and others can be creative.

"It just helps space the floor and gets everyone easier looks and easier shots," Lopez said. "We're all out here trying to play the system as best we can."

New rules likely coming, but not to instant replay

By ARNIE STAPLETON
Associated Press

DENVER — In no sport but the NFL do players, fans, coaches and general managers annually debate the rules of the game, advocating ways to make pro football better, safer, fairer.

Officiating is especially a hot topic around the league after a blown call late in the NFC championship game pretty much cost the New Orleans Saints a trip to the Super Bowl.

That capped a season which began with the long-awaited clarification of what constitutes a catch and then was marred by widespread confusion over what exactly is a legal takedown of the quarterback. While defenders learned new ways to tackle to avoid flags for even glancing blows to the helmet, they complained about O-linemen illegally blocking too far downfield in the run-pass option craze that has successfully seeped in from the college game.

Giants owner John Mara hears the cries to change the NFL's replay review system after officials failed to flag the blatant pass interference penalty, and a helmet-first hit by the Rams' Nickell Robey-Coleman deep in Los Angeles territory in the NFC championship match. The non-calls helped Los Angeles force overtime and eventually win the game to reach the Super Bowl, leading to widespread displeasure with the current system regarding coaches' challenges.

Mara said last month at the NFL combine that the powerful competition committee isn't in a rush to change the replay system.

"I just don't sense a lot of support to use replay to penalize. I don't sense a lot of support for the expansion of it, either," Mara said. "We're early on, so that might change, but that's my sense of where we are right now."

The Canadian Football League

has allowed pass interference, either called or uncalled, to be reviewed for the last five years. But the NFL has long been reluctant to expand replays for officiating because it would slow games even further.

Other major moves will be considered by the 32 owners at the league meetings in Phoenix beginning Sunday.

Several teams are proposing big changes to replay and overtime after a season of consistent criticism of officiating and which plays can be challenged or automatically reviewed. Any change requires a 24-vote threshold to pass.

Just like the USFL did with the two-point conversion and other innovations back in the 1980s, the Alliance of American Football's debut this spring has brought new ideas, some of which could find their way into the NFL rule book. Baltimore Ravens coach John Harbaugh, a staunch advocate for adding more replay reviews to the NFL, is a big fan of the AAF's "sky judge," an official watching from the press box level who can help call penalties from a bird's-eye view.

"Look how tough it is for these officials, all right. I know as a coach, what's the worst spot to watch the game from? Sideline. You see the least amount of the sideline. That's why you put coaches in the box," Harbaugh said. "OK. So we've got all this technology and the fans actually have a better view of the game from an officiating standpoint than the officials do."

Harbaugh said the league would save face by fixing a system everyone knows is flawed.

"Because at the end of the day it's about the credibility of the sport, and we can't have the other leagues outpacing us in terms of use of technology to make sure games are fair and well-officiated," Harbaugh said.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	51	21	.708	—
Philadelphia	47	25	.653	4
Boston	43	29	.597	8
Brooklyn	37	36	.507	14 1/2
New York	14	58	.194	37

Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	35	36	.493	—
Orlando	34	38	.472	1 1/2
Charlotte	31	39	.443	3 1/2
Washington	30	42	.417	5 1/2
Atlanta	24	48	.333	11 1/2

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Milwaukee	53	19	.736	—
Indiana	44	28	.611	9
Detroit	36	34	.514	16
Cleveland	32	40	.444	20 1/2
Chicago	19	53	.264	34

Western Conference

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	45	27	.625	—
San Antonio	42	30	.583	3
New Orleans	31	43	.419	15
Memphis	29	42	.408	15 1/2
Dallas	28	43	.394	16 1/2

Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Denver	47	22	.681	—
Portland	44	27	.620	4
Utah	29	29	.500	6
Oklahoma City	42	30	.583	6 1/2
Minnesota	12	39	.231	32

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Golden State	48	22	.686	—
L.A. Clippers	42	30	.583	7
Sacramento	34	36	.486	14
L.A. Lakers	31	40	.437	17 1/2
Phoenix	15	55	.236	32

x-clinched playoff spots				
Tuesday's games				
Philadelphia 118, Charlotte 114				
Oklahoma City 115, L.A. Lakers 109				
Golden State 117, Minnesota 107				
Brooklyn 123, Sacramento 121				

Wednesday's games				
Cleveland 107, Milwaukee 102				
Orlando 115, New Orleans 96				
Philadelphia 118, Boston 115				
Utah 137, New York 116				
Chicago 126, Washington 120, OT				
Memphis 126, Houston 125, OT				
Miami 110, San Antonio 105				
Toronto 123, Oklahoma City 114, OT				
Portland 126, Dallas 118				

Thursday's games				
Denver at Washington				
Minnesota at Charlotte				
Utah at Atlanta				
Dallas at Sacramento				
Detroit at Phoenix				
Indiana at Golden State				

Friday's games				
Memphis at Orlando				
Denver at New York				
L.A. Clippers at Cleveland				
Oklahoma City at Toronto				
San Antonio at Houston				
Miami at Milwaukee				
Brooklyn at L.A. Lakers				

Saturday's games				
Boston at Charlotte				
Miami at Washington				
Philadelphia at Atlanta				
Minnesota at Memphis				
Phoenix at Chicago				
Dallas at Golden State				
Detroit at Portland				
Phoenix at Sacramento				

Sunday's games				
L.A. Clippers at New York				
Cleveland at Milwaukee				
Denver at Atlanta				
Charlotte at Toronto				
Houston at New Orleans				
San Antonio at Boston				
Detroit at Golden State				
Sacramento at L.A. Lakers				



GERALD HERBERT/AP

The Los Angeles Rams' Nickell Robey-Coleman (23) breaks up a pass intended for the New Orleans Saints' Tommie Lee Lewis in January during the NFC championship game in New Orleans.

HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA PACIFIC

Young Kubasaki lineup out to defend crown

Yokota, Zama expect to contend for D-II softball title

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Of all the challenges Kubasaki's girls softball team has faced in its 17 years of existence, this year's is perhaps the most daunting, Jalya Foster said.

Ten months ago, Foster was a sophomore infielder when the Dragons completed the march to the Far East Division I title, routing Kinnick 13-3 in a rain-soaked final.

Fast forward to today, when six of the players on that team are no longer in Dragons uniform, including the winning pitcher and every player who drove in runs in the championship game.

This year's squad has one senior and a bunch of youngsters, not new to softball, but still young.

"It's terrifying," Foster said of the idea of being the team bearing the bull's-eye for the first time in school history. "But it's exciting. It means we'll have a new challenge this year."

Youth might indicate inexperience, but both Kubasaki and Kadena on Okinawa benefit from having their youngsters matriculate in youth programs such as Lady Ambassadors and American Legion.

So it's probably not surprising to see young players holding down key spots. Foster and sophomore Zoey Weidley will play in the middle infield. Sophomore McKayla Paine handles center field, and Jocelyn Powell and Alyssa Frank, both freshmen, will tag team on the mound and at first base.

"She's special, a natural talent, the fastest on our team," Dragons coach Trevor

Thibert said of Paine. He anticipates having Frank also pitch, saying her velocity has improved thanks to playing in the youth ranks.

Powell batted .625 with four RBIs and Frank hit .500, including a walk-off RBI single, as the Dragons won four of six games during a tournament last weekend at International School Bangkok. "That was a good trip for us," Thibert said.

The rest of the Division I field is ready to make a run at Kubasaki, perhaps most of all Kinnick, which features a strong field of stateside transfers in addition to four returning from last year.

"If we can get our bats going, we should be in for a great ride this season," said veteran Red Devils coach Katrina Kemper, who will count on juniors Cassi Boyer and Tori Osterbrink and seniors Kim Nelson and Michaela Hall.

Another team flush with youth is Kadena, which holds the record with five D-I titles but hasn't been to the final since 2016. Coach Steven Larson transfers in from Sigonella, Sicily, where he won three small-schools titles.

Humphreys returns eight starters, including All-Far East seniors Raquel Barnes and Xyra Razon, but faces the challenge of playing at the large-schools level for the first time.

The Division II title could return to its long-standing home in the Kanto Plain, given the strong complement of players returning to 2016 champion Yokota and 2017 champion Zama.

The Panthers welcome their third head coach in four years, Preston Heitsman,



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Freshman Jocelyn Powell brings a solid glove and a potent bat to Kubasaki's softball team. The defending Division I champions lost six players from last year's team.

an assistant coach a year ago.

And while they lost shortstop Madison Derber to Yokota's baseball team, PCS blessed the Panthers with Veronica Crawford, who played shortstop for last year's D-II champion Edgren.

"We're going to do our best and work as hard as we possibly can, to come up and be where we were a few years ago," Heitsman said. Senior pitcher Adrianna Diaz is the last link to the 2016 D-II title team.

Danny Davis assumes Zama's helm; his daughter Aika will pitch. She's a returning All-Far East selection, as is first baseman-outfielder Jessica Atkinson. Zama also welcomes youth softball veterans Allyssia Grose, KyeAuna Molina and Destiny

Orquiza, all freshmen.

Reigning D-II champion Edgren must replace departed three-time D-II Most Outstanding Player Brittany Crown, and the ranks of returners and impact newcomers are thin.

Alex Amador transfers in from Hawaii and should start at shortstop. "She's an athlete and will surely be a starter and a key player; you'd never think she's only a freshman or new to the sport," first-year Eagles coach Christina Fly said.

Last year's small-school runner-up Daegu retains sophomore workhorse right-hander Bethany Newbold, but the ranks are very thin for the Warriors this season.

ornaue.dave@stripes.com

Ferch hopes seventh time the charm for Kadena

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa — Steven Ferch had little left to prove as a coach after leading Yokota to its third Far East baseball title in four seasons last year.

When he transferred to Okinawa after the season, Ferch was recommended for the Kadena coaching job by his predecessor, Boe Roberts, and was named the Panthers coach late last fall.

So far, Ferch says he's seen a lot of similarities between his new Panthers and his former Panthers. He says he's brought with him the same behavior standards he expected from Yokota's players: Humility, hard work and integrity.

"As far as the similarities in character, coming from Yokota to here, the kids here are phenomenal," Ferch said. "They don't complain. They just want more."

Ferch and his two assistants — Billy Richardson, who assisted Ferch at Yokota and also transferred to Okinawa last summer, and Kadena holdover Keith Duenas — evaluated 30 players who tried out and kept 20. "We want to win now and also win in the future," Ferch said.

Toward that end, the Panthers kept an equal amount of veterans and underclassmen new to Kadena but not new to baseball. PCS also blessed the Panthers with some timely transfers, one of whom is quite familiar with Kadena baseball.

Logan Howell, who played the last two seasons for Seoul American, returns to Kadena for his senior year.

Coming to Kadena from Kaiserslautern, Germany, is Cyan Buck, a sophomore first baseman. Holdovers include Duenas' son Jared and outfielder J.J. Jensen, both juniors.

Ferch becomes the next in a long line of coaches

trying to get Kadena over the hump.

The Panthers have reached six D-I finals, equal to the six reached by American School in Japan. But the Mustangs have won all six of their appearances and Kadena, none.

"It's gotta be the lucky number," Ferch said of the number 7. "ASIJ has one of the best programs out here ... and I wanted to emulate them."

To beat ASIJ, which Yokota did twice last season, the Mustangs' only two defeats, one must play a "low-scoring game with no errors and plenty of discipline," Ferch said.

The Mustangs, who have won five straight D-I titles, lost just one senior and return everybody else. ASIJ also adds three juniors who could end up starting along with some freshmen who've played Japanese club ball.

The rest of the Division I field is as green as new spring grass, at least to hear the coaches tell it.

Humphreys, new to D-I after playing at the small-school level for six years, returns senior Kierden Blessing and just one underclassman. Kubasaki has 10 returners, but only two are underclassmen. Kinnick also lost a mostly senior squad and is in rebuild mode.

As for the Division II field, Ferch didn't leave the cupboard bare at Yokota. One of his assistants, LeSean Thoma, has taken over. And while they lost three key players, they return three starters, welcome three potential starters from the States, and welcome a second baseman who is — literally — not just one of the boys.

Madison Derber, a junior, moves over from the softball team to play baseball, hoping that playing a faster-paced game will help her earn a college softball scholarship.

The rest of D-II is rebuilding for the most part.

ornaue.dave@stripes.com



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Junior Jared Duenas is one of a handful of holdovers for Kadena's baseball team. The Panthers are looking to claim their first Division I title after falling short in six previous finals.

HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA PACIFIC/SOCCER



KRYSTAL DUNNAS/Special to Stripes

Humphreys' Quintin Metcalf, right, and Jalen Hill, left, are projected to be competitive in the middle-distance runs this season. Metcalf is also expected to challenge the Pacific's high jump record.

Track and field preview

King sprints to catch up with established squads

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

For the first time since it became a Far East championship sport in 2010, all DODEA Pacific schools now have track and field teams.

E.J. King became the last to join the club and begins its quest to challenge for Division II honors. The Cobras travel to Yokota Saturday for DODEA Japan's second meet of the season.

"We're looking forward to that first meet, to see how we perform," said Nicole Reuss, the Cobras' head coach. "We're excited."

King had some athletes who wanted to "run and jump," Reuss said, and a proposal for King to form a track team was made and approved.

Before arriving in Japan, Reuss had coached at DDESS Fort Knox, Ky., where the boys team won the state 1A team title. "We had a great team there ... I was pretty fortunate," said Reuss, who claims Rochester, N.Y., as home.

King will make its DODEA Japan debut with just nine athletes, after an almost 24-hour bus ride from Sasebo Naval Base in southwestern Japan.

In tow, the Cobras will have

L.J. Scarver, a junior who transferred to Japan from Jacksonville, Fla., and freshman Brandon Powell, projected to do long jump and sprints.

Scarver is "sure to be a Far East competitor in the middle-distance events," said Cobras assistant coach Travis Elliott. Powell has jumped "pretty far" in the long jump and shown some speed in the short-distance sprints, "so he's showing some potential there," Reuss said.

If Scarver, Powell or others enjoy some early success, it might bring others to Reuss' and Elliott's offices.

While it's "too early to say" whether that might happen or not, "the students seem interested," Reuss said. "It's exciting to bring it up and get the ball rolling."

One team that got the ball rolling just last year is Perry, which is up to 39 athletes from 17 in its inaugural year. Among them are juniors Owen Young and Angeliqe Armijo, the reigning Far East Division II cross country champions.

Among other Division II hopefuls, Zama looks to win the combined time for the fifth time in six years, led by a solid blend of youngsters and veterans. Freshmen Keshawn McNeill and Jalen Brown are among newcomers to

a sprint-heavy Trojans lineup.

There will be a new Far East Division II champion team, as Humphreys has moved to Division I due to an enrollment spike in the past year.

Humphreys returns 18 athletes, a sprint-laden lineup featuring Junior Gregory, Jalen Hill, Jaylan Horne, Cullen Areniego and Cleo Cody. Quintin Metcalf hopes to challenge the Pacific's high jump record. Ebony Dykes and Daniel McIntosh transferred from Seoul American.

Four-time defending Division I champion Kinnick isn't as deep as it was a season ago, but the cupboard is far from bare.

Delvriana Ellis (sprints), Sontti Sessay (hurdles) and Annabel Stafford (distance) headline the girls lineup. Hanokheiyahu Gailson, a junior, brings depth to the distance corps, while senior Connor Joley headlines the Red Devils throwers.

Kadena's "big three" distance runners Guy Renquist, Trevor Williams and Hayden Bills bring depth to the Panthers boys lineup, along with sprinter Eric McCarter and thrower Uriah Morris. Senior Keyayana Paccack might challenge some Pacific girls sprint records.

ornaer.dave@stripes.com

Pulisic has dreams of US being soccer power

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

DAVENPORT, Fla. — Christian Pulisic has a vision of a transformed U.S. soccer team, a red-white-and-blue power that gives opponents sleepless nights similar the nightmares that plague players on the eve of facing Brazil or Germany.

"I want them to fear them like a big team," he said Tuesday, quickly acknowledging "obviously, we still feel we have a long way to."

The midfielder from Hershey, Pa., is with the national team this week for the first time since he became the most expensive American player. Chelsea agreed in January to buy Pulisic from Borussia Dortmund for \$73 million, then loaned him back to the German club for the rest of the season.

In their first training camp with new coach Gregg Berhalter, a trio of emerging 20-year-olds could start together for the first time: Pulisic, Weston McKennie and Tyler Adams.

"There's a lot of things that we talk about, that we need to be leaders, we need to show everybody what we're about," Adams said. "A lot of times I feel that in the U.S., we talk about how many good young players we have and stuff like that, and there's a lot of players that end up falling off or not being heard about again. And you don't want to be one of those players."

Pulisic was 17 when he made his Bundesliga debut in 2016 and became a regular with the national team. When the U.S. lost at Trinidad and Tobago in October 2017, failing to qualify for the World Cup, he was the image of defeat. Pulisic crouched on the field, steadied his body with his right hand and covered his face with his left.

"Ever since that happened, it makes you want to be in a World Cup that much more," he said. "So, yeah, definitely it motivates me."

A regular with Dortmund the past two seasons, he struggled

'I want them to fear them like a big team. Obviously, we still feel we have a long way to.'

Christian Pulisic
U.S. midfielder

with a torn calf muscle last fall and a thigh injury this winter. He lost his starting job to 18-year-old English winger Jadon Sancho.

Pulisic's start against Hertha Berlin on Saturday was just his sixth in the league this season, but he scored as a sub against Stuttgart on March 9, his second league goal this season and first since September. He played in both Champions League round of 16 matches against Tottenham, though he struggled to be effective in the first leg.

"I feel very confident right now," he said. "I'm feeling very good. I feel like I'm at the top of my game. So I want to play as much as I can over there over in Dortmund. I'm not there to just finish out my time. I want to fight and they know that."

Chelsea wanted to acquire Pulisic during the January transfer window because it anticipated discipline from FIFA, which in February banned the club from signing players for the next two transfer windows. FIFA concluded the team violated regulations on the registration of young players, a penalty the Chelsea has appealed.

Pulisic long dreamed of playing in the Premier League, the most watched soccer league on U.S. television. Chelsea needs a playmaking midfielder in case Eden Hazard leaves this summer.

Knowing his time at Dortmund will end in two months does not make Pulisic feel awkward.

"My teammates are all professionals," he said. "They understand how this business works. I wanted to move and they're all very happy for me and the club is, as well."



FRANCISCO SECO/AP

United States midfielder Christian Pulisic, from Hershey, Pa., has been a regular the past two seasons for Borussia Dortmund, which is in the top tier of the German pro soccer league.

HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA EUROPE

Baseball preview

Champs will find it hard to repeat

Both divisions loaded with contenders

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

Two vulnerable defending champions and fields of highly qualified contenders should make for a fascinating DODEA Europe baseball season, opening this weekend at sites across Germany, Italy and Belgium.

Division I

The Lakenheath Lancers disrupted the large-school status quo last spring, becoming the first team other than the Stuttgart Panthers or Ramstein Royals to win the division's European title. Their remarkable run featured an 8-7 semifinal win over Ramstein, ending the Royals' five-year championship dynasty, followed by a 9-6 defeat of Kaiserslautern in the title game later that same day.

This season will determine whether the Lancers' triumph was a one-off outlier or a harbinger of more parity and unpredictability to follow.

Lakenheath itself will be hard-pressed to replicate its 2018 performance, having lost four All-Europe performers to graduation. But Kaiserslautern, still

seeking the title breakthrough the school's boys soccer and softball programs have enjoyed in recent seasons, might be ready for its moment. Head coach Justin Bates returns five starters among 10 incumbent Raiders, among them ace pitcher and utility man Ronin Sherman, a sophomore coming off an impressive debut.

"We have a solid core of returning players who gained a lot of baseball experience last year," Bates said.

Ramstein will look to rebound under new head coach Osvaldo Garcia Carrillo, most recently the coach at Seoul American in the Pacific, and the Royals have considerable talent on hand with which to restart their stalled dynasty. Carrillo said seniors Jerod Junkins, Nathan Kranz and Tieran Shofner, all members of the Royals' most recent championship team, are stepping up to the challenge.

"They are showing off their hitting power at every practice," Carrillo said. "They enjoy the role to be the veterans of our team, and they are not shying away from the spotlight."

Stuttgart saw its once-elite status fade during Ramstein's



MICHAEL B. KELLER/Stars and Stripes

Pitcher/utility man Ronin Sherman, a sophomore, is among 10 returnees for Kaiserslautern.

five-year reign, and the Panthers missed the elimination round altogether a year ago. But new head coach Rob Loyd has nine returning varsity players as the foundation for a rejuvenated contender.

The Wiesbaden Warriors and Naples Wildcats joined Kaiserslautern, Stuttgart, Ramstein and Lakenheath in posting .500-or-better overall records a year ago. Wiesbaden lost a lot of talent from its 2018 semifinal team, while Naples coach Jim Davis has just four incumbent varsity performers to headline an upstart team he described as "scrappy and quick."

Meanwhile, the Vilsack Falcons might be next in line for a Lakenheath-style surge. New head coach Michael Valenzuela's group of 12 returning varsity players features junior star Jordan Leighty, an ace pitcher and

all-around contributor coming off an All-Europe sophomore season.

"The core group of players have been together for three years and have grown a lot," Valenzuela said.

SHAPE and Vicenza, which finished clustered around Vilsack at the bottom of last year's standings, will join the Falcons in attempting to level up this spring.

Division II/III

A third straight small-school championship is the goal for the Sigonella Jaguars, although a very different group of players will have to be the ones to achieve it.

Only three Jaguars starters are back from last year's repeat champion, and neither of the Jaguars' 2018 first-team All-Eu-

rope selections are among them. In place of that lost star power, head coach Matt McKown has flipped to a less glamorous recipe for winning, stressing his team's "speed on the base paths" and positional depth.

Fortunately for the Jaguars, the returning runner-up is facing a similar predicament. Spangdahlem, which last year lost 1-0 to Sigonella in one of the more well-played championship games in DODEA Europe history, lost all three of its All-Europe performers.

Rota, whose own multi-year run as champion was superseded by Sigonella, and fellow 2018 semifinalist Aviano are among the teams primed to capitalize.

broome.gregory@stripes.com
Twitter: @broomestripes

Softball preview

Sigonella looks to continue dominance in Division II/III

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

Opportunities abound in Division I as the 2019 DODEA Europe softball season opens this weekend, while a dominant defending Division II/III champion looks to continue its small-school reign.

Division I

The Kaiserslautern Raiders edged the Lakenheath Lancers 9-8 in last year's large-school championship game, a departure from years of dominance by the Ramstein Royals and Stuttgart Panthers. The Raiders' dramatic title run included a 5-4 semifinal defeat of Ramstein, its neighboring rival and longtime nemesis.

While that 2018 team will feature prominently in Kaiserslautern's athletic lore, not much of it remains to take the field in 2019. Head coach Jesse Costa has just six returning players, most notably standout pitcher/infielders Abby Young and Catherine San-Miguel, in what Costa characterized as a "rebuilding year" for the defending champs.



MICHAEL B. KELLER/Stars and Stripes

All-Europe selection Chenoa Gragg returns for Vicenza.

Perhaps a team on a similar trajectory will step into the breakout role. Like Kaiserslautern before its 2018 title, the Vilsack Falcons have lingered on the cusp of a championship for years, taking a one-year loss to Ramstein in the 2015 title game and bowing out in the semifinals the three years since.

This year's team might be the group that ends that trend. Coach Jim Hall returns 11 varsity players from last year's strong roster, including eight starters that will give the Falcons a head start on team building in an already short season further disjointed by a week-long spring break in April. Hard-hitting senior outfielders Cecelia Jackson and Joanne Baker and junior catcher Cooper Lazo headline a lineup that boasts experience, offensive punch and defensive acumen across the board.

Ramstein and Stuttgart, meanwhile, will be determined to regain their places in Saturday's final after being deposed in 2018. Ramstein routed Stuttgart for the 2017 crown, while Stuttgart col-

lected the 2016 crown when that year's championship game was called off by rain. The Panthers field a deep and talented roster around the battery of Rachel Johnson, a junior catcher, and her sister, freshman pitcher Rebekah Johnson.

Returning runner-up Lakenheath faces an even starker version of Kaiserslautern's challenge with just five returning players and a pair of incumbent starters.

Naples, Vicenza and Wiesbaden round out the Division I field. The Wildcats lurk as a particular threat as head coach Amy Driscoll reports several promising new arrivals in support of All-Europe catcher Mia Rawlins and senior Marissa Dye. Rival Vicenza will challenge the Wildcats with 11 returning players, including All-Europe selection Chenoa Gragg. Senior pitcher Allison Urick is the All-Europe foundation for a new-look Wiesbaden team.

Division II/III

Most small-school softball teams are searching for solutions

to lineup vacancies in the early stages of the spring season. But the Sigonella Jaguars aren't most small-school softball teams.

The two-time defending Division II/III champions have far more answers than questions on their roster. The Jaguars return nine players from last year's championship squad, among them senior standouts Hannah Davis and Jessica Jacobs and returning tournament MVP Averi Chandler, to form a team with a deep pitching staff, solid defense and an offense capable of huge innings.

Among the contenders in line to challenge the Jaguars' title reign are returning runner-up Hohenfels, which impressed in a 4-2 title-game loss to a Sigonella team that had previously overwhelmed all opponents, and 2018 semifinalists Rota and Spangdahlem. Rota welcomes stateside transfer Sydney Carroll, a versatile junior, to a strong core of nine returning varsity players, led by All-Europe infielder Elizabeth Lamb.

broome.gregory@stripes.com
Twitter: @broomestripes

NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
z-Tampa Bay	74	57	13	4	118	292	195
Boston	73	44	20	9	97	221	185
Washington	74	43	23	8	94	256	231
Toronto	74	44	26	4	92	263	221
N.Y. Islanders	73	42	24	7	91	206	178
Pittsburgh	74	39	24	11	89	251	223
Carolina	72	40	25	7	87	215	198
Columbus	73	40	29	4	84	222	214

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Montreal	73	38	28	7	83	215	213
Philadelphia	73	35	29	9	78	223	244
Florida	73	32	29	12	76	236	246
Buffalo	73	31	33	9	71	202	237
N.Y. Rangers	73	28	32	13	69	204	244
New Jersey	74	27	38	9	63	205	253
Detroit	73	35	37	10	82	188	249
Ottawa	73	25	42	6	56	217	270

Western Conference

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Calgary	73	45	21	7	97	260	208
San Jose	73	43	20	8	94	261	229
Winnipeg	73	44	25	4	92	249	213
Nashville	74	42	27	5	89	232	195
Vegas	73	41	27	5	87	227	203
St. Louis	73	38	27	8	84	214	200
Dallas	73	38	29	6	82	185	180
Arizona	73	36	31	6	78	196	204

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.
x-clinched playoff spot
z-clinched conference

Tuesday's games

Carolina 3, Pittsburgh 2, SO
Montreal 3, Philadelphia 1
Detroit 3, N.Y. Rangers 2
Boston 5, N.Y. Islanders 0
Washington 4, New Jersey 1
Colorado 3, Minnesota 1
St. Louis 7, Edmonton 2
Nashville 3, Toronto 0
Dallas 4, Florida 2

Wednesday's games

Toronto 4, Buffalo 2
Tampa Bay 5, Washington 4, OT
Vancouver 7, Ottawa 4
Winnipeg 3, Anaheim 0

Thursday's games

Tampa Bay at Carolina
Boston at New Jersey
Arizona at Florida
N.Y. Islanders at Montreal
Detroit at St. Louis
Pittsburgh at Nashville
Colorado at Dallas
Philadelphia at Chicago
Columbus at Edmonton
Ottawa at Calgary
Winnipeg at Vegas
San Jose at Los Angeles

Friday's games

Minnesota at Washington
San Jose at Anaheim

Saturday's games

Arizona at New Jersey
N.Y. Islanders at Philadelphia
Chicago at Colorado
Ottawa at Edmonton
N.Y. Rangers at Toronto
Minnesota at Carolina
Nashville at Winnipeg
Buffalo at Montreal
Pittsburgh at Dallas
Tampa Bay at St. Louis
Calgary at Vancouver
Detroit at Vegas
Anaheim at Los Angeles

Sunday's games

Philadelphia at Washington
Arizona at N.Y. Islanders
Montreal at Carolina
Colorado at Chicago
Columbus at Vancouver

Leaders

Name, Team	GP	G
Alex Ovechkin, Washington	73	48
Leon Draisaitl, Edmonton	73	43
Patrick Kane, Chicago	71	41
John Tavares, Toronto	74	41
Sam Reinhart, Columbus	71	38
Alex DeBrincat, Columbus	72	38
Brayden Point, Tampa Bay	72	38
Jake Guentzel, Pittsburgh	74	37
Kirkus Kucherenko, Tampa Bay	74	37
Nathan MacKinnon, Colorado	73	37
Joe Pavelski, San Jose	72	37
Jeff Skinner, Buffalo	73	37
Steven Stamkos, Tampa Bay	74	37
Connor McDavid, Edmonton	69	36
Johnny Gaudreau, Calgary	73	35
Auston Matthews, Toronto	60	35

Plus/Minus

Name, Team	GP	+/-
Evgeni Malkin, Tampa Bay	69	35
Mikael Backlund, Calgary	61	31
Mark Giordano, Calgary	71	31
Ron Hainsey, Toronto	74	30
Blake Wheeler, Nashville	72	29
Elias Lindholm, Calgary	73	29
Brett Pesce, Carolina	63	28
Max Domi, Pittsburgh	71	27
Morgan Rielly, Toronto	74	27
J. Brédie, Calgary	72	25
Ryan Ellis, Nashville	74	25
Brayden Point, Tampa Bay	72	25
Colton Sissons, Nashville	67	25
Sebastian Aho, Carolina	72	24
Michael B. Eakin, Nashville	72	24
Michael Frolik, Calgary	56	24
Nicholas Kempny, Washington	71	24

Around the league

Incentive-based performances

Karlsson, Panarin, Bobrovsky can close strong, then cash in

By LARRY LAGE

Associated Press

Many NHL teams have plenty to play for down the final stretch of the regular season, trying to get in the playoffs or to improve their positioning, before 16 teams compete for the Stanley Cup.

Some players have a lot at stake, too.

Erik Karlsson, Artemi Panarin and Sergei Bobrovsky are a few of the potential free agents in the league with a chance to close strong and cash in by re-signing with their teams or on the open market.

Here's a look at the top trio of stars and some other standouts with a lot to gain financially when the season is finished, if not sooner:

Karlsson

The San Jose Sharks acquired the two-time Norris Trophy-winning defenseman from Ottawa before the season started, hoping they would have him for more than a year. To keep Karlsson off the market as an unrestricted free agent, San Jose may have to at least match the eight-year, \$88 million deal the Los Angeles Kings gave defenseman Drew Doughty to stay last summer.

Panarin

Dynamic scorers like the Russian winger rarely are available in free agency and a team that wants to spend a lot of money over many years may be able to land an 80-point scorer. Panarin has already said he wants to see if there are better options in the summer than staying with the Columbus Blue Jackets, who are simply hoping he helps them win at least a postseason series for the first time.

Bobrovsky

Big-time goaltenders, like the two-time Vezina Trophy winner, usually stay with their teams and off the market. Like Panarin, his teammate and fellow countryman, the 30-year-old Bobrovsky will probably want to make the most of his opportunity to make as much money as he can with his next deal while being at or near the prime of his career.

Matt Duchene

It was a good time for the center, and his bank account, to have one of the best years of his career. He's averaging more than a point per game this season, starting with Ottawa, before being dealt to Columbus. If Panarin and Bobrovsky appear to be leaving in



JOHN LOCHER, ABOVE, AND JEFF ROBERSON, BELOW/AP

Columbus Blue Jackets goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky, above, and San Jose Sharks defenseman Erik Karlsson, below, are free agents-to-be with a lot at stake in both the regular season and the postseason.



offs to cast doubt on his long-term health, one of the best defensemen available will be paid well to stay in Toronto or to go play for another team.

Wayne Simmonds

The winger has not produced much offensively with Nashville, which acquired him from Philadelphia, and yet he will have a chance to make a lasting impression when it matters most in the playoffs. Simmonds has a rare combination of scoring ability, toughness and durability.

Restricted free agents

There is an excellent group of players eligible to be restricted free agents, including: forwards Mikko Tananen, William Karlsson, Brayden Point, Mitch Marner, Sebastian Aho and Matthew Tkachuk, along with defensemen Jack Trouba and Zach Werenski. Teams, though, rarely send offer sheets to other franchise's restricted free agents as Philadelphia did in 2012 with a \$110 million, 14-year deal for Shea Weber, only to have the Predators match it.

free agency after the season, the Blue Jackets may give the 28-year-old Duchene a lot to stay before the market opens.

Jeff Skinner

The center has a shot to surpass the 63 points he has reached twice, before the team he plays for, the Buffalo Sabres, are relegated to watching the postseason

for an eighth straight season. The Sabres want to re-sign Skinner, but he might be willing to take a severance deal — instead of the eight he can get to stay — and join a Stanley Cup contender.

Jake Gardiner

He has been out for nearly a month with a back injury, but barring it lingering into the play-

MLB

Key dates

Tuesday, April 2

Philadelphia Phillies at Washington Nationals: Bryce Harper doesn't have to wait very long to get his first game against Washington out of the way. Harper played for the Nationals for seven seasons, winning the NL MVP award in 2015 and making the All-Star team six times, before agreeing to a \$530 million, 13-year contract with the Phillies in February. Now he returns to DC with much-improved Philadelphia. While the loss of Harper is a blow, the Nationals have two of baseball's most promising young outfielders in Juan Soto and Victor Robles.

Tuesday, April 9

Toronto Blue Jays at Boston Red Sox: Mookie Betts and the Red Sox get another chance to celebrate their World Series title with ceremonies before their home opener against the Blue Jays. Betts led the way last year, winning the AL MVP award for the first time and helping the Red Sox to the franchise's ninth championship. Boston went 15-4 against Toronto last season, outscoring the Blue Jays 108-77.

Friday, May 10

Milwaukee Brewers at Chicago Cubs: The NL Central race went all the way to game No. 163 last year, and Milwaukee beat Chicago 3-1 on its way to its first appearance in the NL Championship Series since 2011. The Brewers return to Wrigley Field for the first time since the tiebreaker when they open a weekend series with an afternoon matchup with the Cubs. Neither Milwaukee and Chicago battle for the division title last year, but Brewers outfielder Christian Yelich beat out Cubs infielder Javier Baez for his first NL MVP award.

Tuesday, June 25

San Diego Padres at Baltimore Orioles: Manny Machado plays his first game in Baltimore since the Orioles traded the slugger to the Los Angeles Dodgers last July. Machado helped the Dodgers make it to the World Series before signing a \$300 million, 10-year deal with San Diego in February. Baltimore is looking at another long year after it dropped 115 games last season.

Saturday, June 29

New York Yankees at Boston Red Sox: Major League Baseball sends two of its marquee franchises over to London for its first regular-season game in Europe. Aaron Judge and the Yankees take on J.D. Martinez and the Red Sox at Olympic Stadium, home of soccer's West Ham of England's league. New York went 100-62 last year — and finished eight games back of first-place Boston in the AL East. But the Yankees infield left fielder Charlie James Paxton in November and then added to their powerful bullpen by signing Adam Ottavino in January.

Tuesday, July 9

All-Star Game: Cleveland hosts the Midsummer Classic for the sixth time, celebrating the 25th anniversary of Progressive Field. The downtown ballpark also hosted the All-Star Game in 1997, and then Indians catcher Sandy Alomar hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the seventh inning of the AL's 3-1 victory.

Wednesday, July 31

Trade deadline: Trade waivers were recently eliminated, meaning no player can be traded after July 31. Through the end of the regular season. Players who clear outright waivers can still be claimed and will be eligible for the postseason if they are in the organization before Sept. 1.

Friday, Aug. 16

Los Angeles Dodgers at Atlanta Braves: Cody Bellinger and the Dodgers begin a weekend series against Ozzie Albies and the Braves in a rematch of their NL Division Series last year. The Dodgers reached the World Series for the second straight year in 2018 despite the absence of Corey Seager, who missed much of the season because of elbow and hip surgeries. The baby Braves used breakout seasons by Albies and Ronald Acuna Jr. to take the NL East for the first time since 2013.

Monday, Sept. 23

St. Louis Cardinals at Arizona Diamondbacks: Paul Goldschmidt plays his first game in Arizona since the Diamondbacks traded the slugger to St. Louis in December. The six-time All-Star spent his first eight seasons in the desert, hitting .297 with 209 homers and 710 RBIs in 1,092 games. Now Goldschmidt is trying to get the Cardinals back in the playoffs for the first time since they were eliminated by the Cubs in their 2015 NL Division Series. The Diamondbacks also lost left-hander Patrick Corbin and outfielder A.J. Pollock in free agency over the winter, but they have high hopes for promising young catcher Carson Kelly and right-hander Luke Weaver after they were acquired in the Goldschmidt trade.

—Jay Cohen, Associated Press

On the rise

Guerrero, Jimenez, Tatis among talented group of young stars to watch

By JAY COHEN
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Family ties, big bats and powerful arms are once again all on this year's group of prospects on the brink of major league stardom.

A closer look at baseball's next wave of young talent:

■ **OF Eloy Jimenez, Chicago White Sox:** While Chicago lost out in its pursuit of Manny Machado in free agency, the sweet-swinging Jimenez could make his major league debut in April. The 22-year-old Jimenez hit .317 with 10 homers and 42 RBIs with Double-A Birmingham last year before he was promoted to Triple-A Charlotte. He was even better with the Knights, batting .355 with 12 homers and 33 RBIs in 55 games. He struggled in spring training and was sent down, but should be in the bigs soon enough.



Jimenez

■ **INF Vladimir Guerrero Jr., Toronto Blue Jays:** Widely regarded as baseball's top prospect, Guerrero will miss the start of the season after he strained his right oblique in spring training. The son of Hall of Famer Vladimir Guerrero might head straight to the majors when he gets healthy. He hit .381 with 20 home runs and 78 RBIs over four minor league stops last year.

■ **OF Victor Robles, Washington Nationals:** Bryce Harper's big free-agent deal with Philadelphia created an opening in Washington's outfield that just might be filled by the talented Robles, who hit .288 with three homers and 10 RBIs in 21 games with the Nationals last season.

■ **INF/OF Nick Senzel, Cincinnati Reds:** The 23-year-old Senzel got a long look in center field this spring after the Reds let Billy Hamilton go over the winter. He played mostly second and third in the minors, but the former University of Tennessee star is known mostly for his bat. He hit .310 with 25 RBIs in 44 games with Triple-A Louisville in 2018.

■ **RHP Forrest Whitkey and OF Kyle Tucker, Houston Astros:** The 6-foot-7 Whitkey dazzled in the Arizona Fall League, compiling a 2.42 ERA in six starts and striking out 36 in 26 innings. The 22-year-old Tucker struggled in his first major league action last year, batting .141 in 28 games, but he hit .332 for Triple-A Fresno.



Blue Jays third baseman Vladimir Guerrero Jr.

Chris O'Meara/AP



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

Athletics pitcher Jesus Luzardo warms up in the bullpen during a spring training baseball game against the Mariners on Feb. 22 in Peoria, Ariz.

Whitley and Tucker will begin the year in the minors, but they could impact the AL West race this summer. Whitley was the No. 17 pick in the 2016 draft, a year after Tucker went No. 5 overall to the Astros.

■ **INF Brendan Rodgers, Colorado Rockies:** The versatile Rodgers started at second, third and shortstop this spring, and it looks as if he could make his big league debut very soon. He batted .268 with 17 homers and 67 RBIs for Double-A Hartford and Triple-A Albuquerque last year.

■ **OF Alex Verdugo, Los Angeles Dodgers:** The 22-year-old Verdugo played for Los Angeles in each of the past two years, but is still trying to earn regular time with the talented Dodgers. This could be the year after he hit .329 with 10 homers and 44 RBIs in 91 games for Triple-A Oklahoma City last season.

■ **INF Keston Hiura, Milwaukee Brewers:** Hiura worked on his defensive skills this spring. His bat might be major league ready right now. The ninth overall pick in the 2017 draft was the MVP of the Arizona Fall League, hitting .323 with five homers and 33 RBIs in 23 games.

■ **LHP Yusei Kikuchi, Seattle Mariners:** Following in the footsteps of Ichiro Suzuki, one of his childhood favorites, Kikuchi finalized a four-year

contract with Seattle in January that guarantees \$56 million and includes club options that would be worth \$109 million over seven seasons. The 27-year-old lefty went 14-4 with a 3.08 ERA for the Pacific League's Seibu Lions last year.

■ **SS Fernando Tatis Jr., San Diego Padres:** The 20-year-old Tatis is so highly regarded Manny Machado agreed to play third for San Diego to make room for the shortstop's arrival in the big leagues. Tatis, who was acquired in a 2016 trade that sent James Shields to the White Sox, batted .286 with 16 homers and 43 RBIs for Double-A San Antonio last season.

■ **LHP Jesus Luzardo, Oakland Athletics:** The hard-throwing Luzardo made a strong bid for a spot in Oakland's rotation this spring. He went 10-5 with a 2.88 ERA over three minor league stops last year, finishing with 129 strikeouts in 109 1/3 innings.



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

The Padres' Fernando Tatis Jr. celebrates after hitting a two-run home run last month during a spring training game against the Brewers in Phoenix.

MLB

Scoreboard

American League

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	0	0	.000	—
Boston	0	0	.000	—
New York	0	0	.000	—
Tampa Bay	0	0	.000	—
Toronto	0	0	.000	—
Central Division				
Chicago	0	0	.000	—
Cleveland	0	0	.000	—
Detroit	0	0	.000	—
Kansas City	0	0	.000	—
Minnesota	0	0	.000	—
West Division				
Seattle	0	0	1.000	—
Houston	0	0	.000	1
Los Angeles	0	0	.000	1
Texas	0	0	.000	1
Oakland	0	2	.000	2

National League

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	0	0	.000	—
Miami	0	0	.000	—
New York	0	0	.000	—
Philadelphia	0	0	.000	—
Washington	0	0	.000	—
Central Division				
Chicago	0	0	.000	—
Cincinnati	0	0	.000	—
Milwaukee	0	0	.000	—
Pittsburgh	0	0	.000	—
St. Louis	0	0	.000	—
West Division				
Arizona	0	0	.000	—
Colorado	0	0	.000	—
Los Angeles	0	0	.000	—
San Diego	0	0	.000	—
San Francisco	0	0	.000	—

Wednesday's game
Seattle 5, Oakland 7
Thursday's game
Seattle 5, Oakland 4, 12 innings
Thursday, March 28
Baltimore at N.Y. Yankees
Detroit at Toronto
Houston at Tampa Bay
Chicago Cubs at Texas
L.A. Angels at Oakland
Philadelphia at Minnesota
Chicago White Sox at Kansas City
Cleveland at Seattle
N.Y. Mets at Washington
St. Louis at Milwaukee
Atlanta at Philadelphia
Arizona at L.A. Dodgers
Colorado at Miami
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati
San Francisco at San Diego
Friday, March 29
Detroit at Toronto
Houston at Tampa Bay
L.A. Angels at Oakland
Boston at Seattle
Colorado at Miami
St. Louis at Milwaukee
Arizona at L.A. Dodgers
San Francisco at San Diego

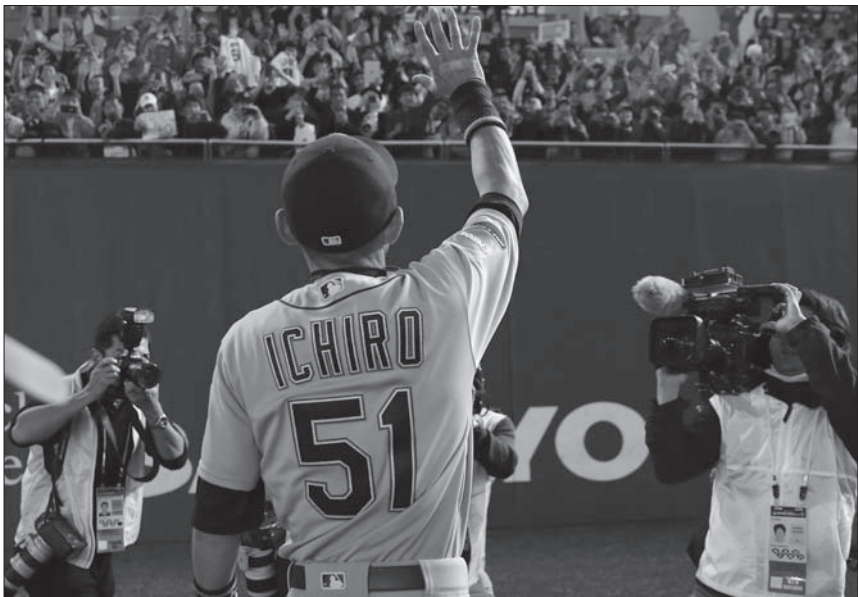
Thursday Mariners 5, Athletics 4 (12)

Seattle	ab	r	h	bi	Oakland	ab	r	h	bi
D. Gordon 2b	6	1	2	0	Semien ss	6	1	3	0
Haniger cf-rf	4	1	2	1	Chapman 3b	4	1	0	0
Bruc 1b	5	0	1	1	Piscotty rf	4	0	1	0
Erneccini dh	3	0	0	0	K. Davis dh	5	0	1	2
D. Santana lf	5	0	1	1	Pineda lf	6	0	1	0
Narvaez c	6	0	0	0	M. Olson 2b	2	1	0	0
Beckham ss	4	1	2	0	Canha 1b	1	0	0	0
Healy 3b-1b	5	2	2	2	Barreto pr	0	0	0	0
Suzuki rf	4	0	0	0	Hurdley c	2	0	0	0
Bishop cf-rf	1	0	0	0	J. Profar 2b	6	1	1	0
					Laureano cf	5	0	2	0
					Phlegley c	2	0	0	0
					Graham pf	0	0	0	0
					Grsinn pf	12	0	0	0
Totals	43	5	9	5	Totals	46	4	10	5
					000	020	200	000	—4
E=Bruc 1b, DP=Seattle 1, Oakland 1									
L=Seattle 1b, O=Seattle 2b, B=Bruc 1b									
ham (1), Santana (1), Haniger (1), Healy (1),									
(2), Pinder (2), SB=Santa (1), SF=									

Seattle
Y. Kikuchi 4/5 4 2 1 1 3
R. Iwazaki 2/1 0 0 0 1 2
D. Pineda 1/1 0 0 0 1 0
B. Narvaez 2/1 0 0 0 1 0
M. Fresta 2/1 0 0 0 1 0
Z. Anderson W 1-0
H. Strickland S 2-1
Oakland
M. Semien 5/5 3 3 0 1 0
J. Pettit 1/0 0 0 0 1 0
R. Chapman 2/1 0 0 0 1 0
B. Treinen 2/0 0 0 0 0 4
L. Hendricks 1/0 0 0 0 1 1
R. Pineda 1/1 0 0 0 1 0
F. Rodney 0/0 0 0 0 1 0
R. Iwazaki W 1-0
H. Strickland S 2-1
By Soria (Haniger), WP—Altavilla, Kikuchi.

Calendar

March 28 — Opening day for other teams, active rosters reduced to 25 players.
April 13-14 — St. Louis vs. Cincinnati at Monterrey, Mexico.
May 4-5 — Houston vs. Los Angeles Angels at Monterrey, Mexico.
June 2-3 — Amateur draft starts, Secaucus, N.J.
June 13 — Detroit vs. Kansas City at Omaha, Neb.
June 15 — International amateur signing period closes.
June 20-21 — Owners meeting, New York.
June 29-30 — New York Yankees vs. Boston at London.



TORU TAKAHASHI/AP

Seattle Mariners right fielder Ichiro Suzuki waves to fans after returning to the field Thursday after Game 2 of the season-opening series against the Oakland Athletics in Tokyo. The 45-year-old Mariners star announced his retirement after the game.

Ichiro retires after win in Japan

Ten-time All-Star bids farewell in home country as Mariners edge A's in 12th

By STEPHEN WADE
Associated Press

TOKYO — The magnitude of the moment — of sharing the field with the towering Ichiro Suzuki in his farewell — left Seattle Mariners teammate Yusei Kikuchi in reverent silence.

Asked what that experience meant, the Japanese rookie pitcher paused for a full minute.

"Since spring training until now, Ichiro told us that it is a gift for him to play in Tokyo," Kikuchi finally said through a translator Thursday night. "But for me, he gave me the greatest gift that I can play with him."

Ichiro was showered with cheers and chants while taking his final bow, and the Mariners sent him out with a win by beating the Oakland Athletics 5-4 in 12 innings.

On the day Kikuchi pitched well in his big league debut, Ichiro concluded a magnificent career that lasted nearly three decades.

The 45-year-old Ichiro went 0-for-4 in the second game of the Major League Baseball season. He got a chance at a storybook ending at the jammed Tokyo Dome when he came up with two outs, a runner on second base and a tie score in the eighth inning, but grounded out.

Ichiro, whose pro career began in his homeland in 1992 when he was 18, took his spot in right field to begin the bottom of the eighth. He then was pulled to one more ovation, punctuating his walk with waves, tips of the hat and hugs as cameras flashed all around the park.

Ichiro's teammates met him outside the dugout for a proper send-off in a three-minute tribute. Kikuchi, who worked into the fifth inning, bowed to Ichiro — the 27-year-old lefty was tearing up as he buried his head into Ichiro's shoulder.

"For me it doesn't get better than tonight," Ichiro said through a translator. "Nothing can top what happened tonight for me."

In a fitting scene — a passing of the torch, possibly — Ichiro caught a flyball to end the fourth inning and Kikuchi waited for him outside the dugout for a fist bump. Kikuchi could be the next big star from Japan, having signed a contract in January that could be worth \$109 million over seven years.

"I enjoyed myself. I had fun. I wasn't necessarily nervous. I didn't shake. I was ready," Kikuchi said. "I knew it was going to begin at the Tokyo Dome, where my journey as a major leaguer began."

"I wouldn't say I was excellent, but I was able to play before the Japanese fans. I felt great support from them and I felt lucky."

Kikuchi became the first Japanese-born player to make his major league debut in Japan. Showing a firm fastball and sharp slider, he gave up four hits in 4 1/3 innings.

Marcus Semien hit an RBI single on Kikuchi's 91st and final pitch, making it 3-1. Roenis Elias relieved and got Matt Chapman to hit a comebacker, but first baseman Jay Bruce dropped the throw, allowing a run to score that pulled the A's within 3-2.

Kikuchi, who went to the same high school as Los Angeles Angels two-way phenom Shohei Ohtani, signed with Seattle in January after pitching for the Seibu Lions in Japan.

Effectively hiding the ball in his delivery, Kikuchi often kept Oakland batters off-balance while striking out three and walking one.

Domingo Santana, who hit a grand slam in Seattle's 9-7 win in the opener Wednesday, beat out a double-play relay with the bases loaded to drive in the go-ahead run in the 12th.

Ryon Healy and Mitch Haniger homered for the Mariners, off to their first 2-0 start since opening

3-0 in 2014.
Khris Davis hit a two-run single with the bases loaded in the Oakland seventh to make it 4-all. Davis led the majors with 48 home runs last year and homered Wednesday. Davis struck out with the bases loaded to end the 11th.

"It was disappointing. We had our chances," A's manager Bob Melvin said. "I felt like a couple of times we had them on the ropes and had a chance to win the game, and we didn't. So it's frustrating."

"You don't want to come here and lose two games, but we'll regroup and take a few days off," he said.

Dee Gordon singled off losing pitcher Ryan Buechter to begin the Seattle 12th. He later scored on Santana's one-out grounder when Semien and second baseman Jurickson Profar were slow on the turn.

Zac Rosscup got the win and Hunter Strickland closed for his second save.

Ichiro was all smiles as he greeted his teammates after the final out.
A 10-time All-Star in the majors, Ichiro got 3,089 hits over a 19-year career in the big leagues after getting 1,278 hits while starring for nine seasons in Japan. His combined total of 4,367 is a professional record.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL



GERRY BROOME/AP

Tyus Jones led a top-seeded Duke team to a national title four years ago. Now, younger brother Tre, above left, wants to do the same thing.

Tre keeps up with the 'other Jones' at Duke

By JOEDY MCCREARY
Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Tre Jones considers himself the classic tagalong little brother, always wanting a piece of whatever his big brother had.

So when Tyus Jones won a national championship for Duke — well, Tre wanted one, too.

Four years after Tyus Jones ran the point as a freshman for a title-winning team of Blue Devils, Tre Jones takes his turn to chase a championship for a top-seeded Duke team.

And making it even more special for the Jones family is that baby brother is playing for a trip to the Final Four in Minneapolis — near their hometown of Apple Valley, Minn., and where Tyus is in his fourth season with the NBA's Timberwolves.

But first the Blue Devils (29-5) have to win four NCAA Tournament games, starting Friday night in Columbia, S.C., in the first round of the East Region.

"We have a pretty good feeling what's coming," Tre Jones said. "The older guys have said the energy's crazy, the atmosphere's a lot of fun, but it's win or go home, and we know that. We all have the same goal in mind."

Tre had a front-row seat for his brother's title run — as a high school senior in 2015, he was in the crowd for each of Duke's six wins in that tournament — and that experience has fueled him ever since. "I put out a goal for myself that I want to be in that moment one day," Tre Jones said. "And now that I'm here, that I'm in that moment, it's going to be fun to be able to partake in it."

Tre has been just as indispensable to this Duke team as his brother was to the program's last team to win a national title. Tyus Jones averaged 11.8 points and 5.6 assists during his only college season, and his two big three-pointers in the title-game victory over Wisconsin earned him the Most Outstanding Player award at the Final Four.

Tre Jones leads the Atlantic Coast Conference and ranks fifth in Division I with an assist-turnover ratio of 3.49 and also has a league-best 171 assists. Though he's scoring 9.3 points per game, he reached double figures in all three games of the ACC Tournament, capping it with a season-high 18 points in a victory over Florida State in the title game.

"I'm excited for him, I'm excited for their team,"

By the numbers

9.3 11.8

Freshman guard Tre Jones' scoring average this season at Duke. He's also averaging 5.3 assists.

Tyus Jones' scoring average in 2015, his only season at Duke. He also averaged 5.6 assists.

SOURCE: Associated Press, Duke University

Tyus Jones recently said. "I just told them to stick with it, take it one game at a time and kind of ride that momentum from the ACC Tournament to the (NCAA) tournament. And he's done a great job with the ups and downs of the season, of continuing to work, continuing to try to improve and learn on the fly. He's going to continue to do so in the tournament."

And just as Tre was along for the ride four years ago, the roles have reversed — thanks in part to the NBA's schedule. The Timberwolves played Thursday night in Charlotte, roughly a 90-minute drive from the South Carolina arena where the Blue Devils will play their first NCAA Tournament games. Tyus said the family is making the trip to both places and, depending how things go for the Timberwolves this week, he said he might ask about sneaking down to catch his brother's postseason opener.

"I always wanted to be there with him, wherever he went. Whatever he was doing, I wanted to do exactly what he was doing," Tre Jones said. "And I feel like that's part of the reason all of the comparisons don't really matter to me. Whatever he's done in basketball, or just life in general, I've always wanted to do. He's always set a great example for me, and always been a great role model for me, so with everything he's done in life, I've wanted to follow. And that's why I am where I am today, because he was able to do what he did first."

Georgia St. coach looks for repeat of tournament magic

By CHARLES ODUM
Associated Press

ATLANTA — The greatest moment in Georgia State history still makes Ron Hunter beam.

It makes D'Marcus Simonds cringe.

Simonds has seen replays of the final seconds of the Panthers' 2015 NCAA Tournament first-round upset of No. 3 seed Baylor so many times. Too many times, actually.

It was classic NCAA Tournament bracket-busting magic — with a different twist created by Hunter, who etched his place in tourney lore with his foot in a cast due to an Achilles injury.

Hunter coached the game while sitting on a stool in front of the Panthers' bench. His son, R.J. Hunter, sank a long, last-second three-pointer that gave Georgia State the unlikely 57-56 win. The coach instinctively raised his arms in a celebratory pose, triggering momentum that sent him tumbling off his stool, grinning all the way to his hard landing on the court.

Ron Hunter still savors the moment. He posted a link to video of the sequence on his Twitter account last week.

Georgia State again is a No. 14 seed and will play No. 3 seed Houston on Friday in a Midwest Region first-round game in Tulsa, Okla. Another opportunity for a major upset inspires comparisons to the 2015 game.

"I don't even like hearing it, honestly," Simonds said Monday. "Every time they ask 'Where do you play ball?' and I say 'Georgia State' and they're like 'Oh yeah, R.J. Hunter and his dad when he fell off the stool.'"

Simonds shook his head. He wants to help create another memory for Ron Hunter and the Panthers. He wants his own NCAA moment to remember.

That would be just fine for Hunter. He's eager for more NCAA Tournament glory. Thanks to Hunter, Georgia State has become a mid-major with a knack for bracket-busting. Before the memorable upset of Baylor, Hunter's 2001 team was a No. 11 seed which upset No. 6 Wisconsin in the first round.

Senior Malik Benlivli said the gregarious Hunter "always gives us confidence."

"He's energetic," Benlivli said. "We feed off his energy all year long."

Georgia State is making back-to-back NCAA appearances for the first time in school history after losing to Cincinnati in the first round last year.

"I thought last year we were a little nervous," Hunter said. "This time I think we'll be ready."

Georgia State (24-9) earned the NCAA bid by beating Texas-Arlington on Sunday for the Sun Belt Conference Tournament title. On



TYLER KAUFMAN/AP

Georgia State head coach Ron Hunter holds a piece of the net after his team defeated Texas-Arlington in the championship game of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament on Sunday in New Orleans.

the long bus drive back from New Orleans, Hunter wanted his team to watch the NCAA Tournament selection show but realized the TVs on the bus didn't work.

Hunter provided the remedy with an impromptu stop at a small roadside restaurant in Mississippi — "a truck stop or something," he said.

"We walk in with all my guys and there were about seven guys in there about 85 years old in there having a beer," Hunter said. "They had one TV."

Soon the channel on that TV was switched to the NCAA selection show.

"They were happy to turn it over," Benlivli said. "They just sat there and watched it with us and started cheering when we were cheering."

It was just more NCAA magic, Hunter style.

The coach believes his team has a chance against what he acknowledged is a strong Houston team.

"We weren't really concerned about who we were going to play," Hunter said. "When you're in the NCAA Tournament, all the teams are good ... We're a better team than we were last year in the NCAA Tournament, there's no question about that."

Hunter said he doesn't bring up comparisons to the 2015 upset of Baylor "because it's such a different team."

"All our guys know that," he said. "They hear it all the time. ... They're always compared to that team. This team wanted to be better. They've heard so much about that shot and so much about that team, they wanted to exceed expectations."

NCAA TOURNAMENT



PHOTOS BY ALEX GALLARDO/AP

UC Irvine guard Spencer Rivers lays up a shot in front of Cal State Fullerton forward Johnny Wang during the second half of the Big West Tournament championship Saturday in Anaheim, Calif.

UC Irvine one of only 5 teams with 30 wins

By JOE REEDY
Associated Press

IRVINE, Calif. — UC Irvine is out to prove that it is more than a team with one of college basketball's most unusual mascots.

The Anteaters, who face Kansas State on Friday in San Jose, are one of five teams in the NCAA Tournament field to have 30 or more wins this season. The Big West champions and No. 13 seed in the South Region are 30-5 and have 16 straight wins, the third-longest current winning streak in Division I.

"I don't think anyone will take us lightly with those 30 wins next to our name and with the type of win streak that we have," coach Russell Turner said. "Sometimes that is what you need a little bit, for someone to look past you."

Turner has a roster with experience and a strong lineage. Four of his players have fathers or grandfathers who played in the NBA and the NCAA Tournament.

Big West Tournament MVP Big Hazzard, whose grandfather Walt played and coached at UCLA, is one of four seniors. The roster also includes senior Spencer Rivers, the son of Clippers coach Doc Rivers, freshman JC Butler and redshirt freshman Collin Welp.

Hazzard leads the team in scoring, averaging 12.5 points per game. Welp, a redshirt freshman and son of the late Christian



Guard Max Hazzard and the Anteaters have won 16 straight, the longest current winning streak in Division I.

Welp, is averaging 8.9 points per game and has come on as of late. He scored 23 points in the Big West championship game against Cal State Fullerton.

Doc Rivers said Turner has long been regarded in NBA circles as a good coach. Turner was an assistant coach for six seasons at Golden State before coming to UC Irvine.

"A lot of the guys in the NBA look at Russ, know what type of

coach he is and want our kids playing for him," Rivers said. "He's a good coach and a good guy. He makes them better and that's all you can hope for."

Turner said players with distinctive lineages may be savvier when assessing the strengths and weaknesses of a program.

"They all want the opportunity to assert those own games," he said. "That's not easy when it's done in the shadow of a well-known parent. But the guys who want it are very committed."

Butler, a freshman whose father, Caron, played 14 seasons in the NBA, said this is the first time he has played with other sons of famous players and that being with players who have the same experiences has made the adjustment to college easier.

The Anteaters are one of the toughest defensive teams in the nation. They are third in Division I in total rebounds (1,411), fifth in field-goal percentage defense (38.0 percent) and ninth in rebound margin (7.3).

UC Irvine, which has wins this season against Texas A&M and Saint Mary's, is familiar with Kansas State. The Anteaters played the Wildcats last season but lost.

"I thought we could have been a higher seed but at the end of the day I like the matchup," Hazzard said. "We beat some good teams and we're a confident group right now."

Buffalo shedding mid-major label

By JOHN WAWROW
Associated Press

AMHERST, N.Y. — Buffalo coach Nate Oats was so caught up in the possibility of facing his former boss in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, the significance of the West Region's top-seeded team initially escaped him on Selection Sunday.

"You know, I didn't even think about that," Oats said when reminded his Mid-American Conference Bulls were placed in the same bracket as Gonzaga. "My wife's always said I need to call Mark Few and talk to him."

Why wait, when there's the off-chance for the two coaches to trade notes should their teams meet in the Elite Eight.

Few is Gonzaga's coach who has spent the past 20 years shedding the Bulldogs' "mid-major" label by transforming them into a national power. Much like what's happened at other small-school programs such as Butler and Xavier, Oats wonders if the same could happen at Buffalo.

"We're getting to where I don't know if you'd call us a mid-plus," Oats said.

"In order to get out of that quote-unquote mid-major category, my personal opinion is you need to repeat it a little more frequently," he added. "We're not there yet. But we're climbing in the right direction for sure."

The sixth-seeded Bulls open the tournament Friday at Tulsa, Okla., where they'll face Arizona State, headed by former Buffalo coach Bobby Hurley. The Sun Devils must enter the field by winning a play-in game.

That's when No. 15 Buffalo can continue placing its stamp on the national landscape with its fourth tournament appearance in five years and coming off a 31-3 season in which it set a MAC record for single-season victories.

The senior-laden Bulls returned all but one starter from the 13th-seeded team that turned heads a year ago with a tournament-opening 89-68 romp over Arizona before a second-round

Did you know

Buffalo's No. 6 seed is the best for a MAC team in the history of the league since the field expanded to 64 teams in 1985.



SOURCE: CBSSports.com

loss to Kentucky. And they spent this season with an objective of making it to the tournament's second weekend, which would mean a spot in the Sweet 16.

Then again, why stop there? As senior guard CJ Massinburg noted by saying: "You're right. We want to take it all the way, baby."

The Bulls have adopted the swagger often displayed by their coach, who laughed when asked if he's ever taken his motivational foot off the gas.

"Yeah, we don't do that often around here," Oats said.

So much for the notion you can't build a winner in Buffalo, a state school that struggled through the growing pains after making the jump to the Division I level in 1998.

Buffalo's success is also raising the MAC's profile.

"What really elevates you is a program that goes and really starts to raise the bar and tries to separate themselves from everybody else. And the Buffalo men are clearly raising the bar right now," MAC Commissioner Jon Steinbrecher said. "Take knocking off the PAC 12 champion (Arizona) last year and then coming into this year and, out of the gate, you knock off a 14th-ranked West Virginia and Syracuse. Boom. It just starts to multiply."

AP Sports Writers Mike Marot in Indianapolis, and Tom Withers in Cleveland contributed to this report.



TONY DEJAK/AP

Nate Oats has guided No. 15 Buffalo to a 31-3 season in which it set a MAC record for single-season victories.

NCAA TOURNAMENT



JOHN LOCHER/AP

Oregon coach Dana Altman cuts down the net after the team defeated Washington 68-48 last week in the final of the Pac-12 men's tournament. Oregon overcame losing star Bol Bol early in the season.

Overcoming adversity

Several coaches played key roles in pushing teams to persevere

By DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

Given the track record that Michigan State coach Tom Izzo and Kansas counterpart Bill Self have put together over the years, it is hardly surprising no body felt much sympathy for them this season.

The Spartans had to replace standouts Miles Bridges and Jaren Jackson along with veteran guard Tum Tun Nairn, lost Josh Langford to a season-ending injury and played without Nick Ward for several weeks because of a hand injury. They still managed to win the Big Ten regular-season and tournament titles, and were rewarded with a No. 2 seed in the East Region of the NCAA Tournament.

"I've never been prouder of a team in my life," Izzo said. "Coaches say that every time after they win and year after year, and I've had some incredible teams and incredible guys, but what these guys have been through nobody will ever know."

The Jayhawks played amid the specter of an FBI investigation into apparel partner Adidas, lost big man Udoka Azubuike to a season-ending wrist injury, and watched veteran guard Lagerald Vick leave late in the season for personal issues. Yet the Jayhawks still reached the Big 12 Tournament title game and earned the fourth-seed in a stacked Midwest Region.

Good luck finding two better coaching jobs in college basketball this season.

Izzo and Self aren't alone in overcoming adversity, though, nor are they unique in leading their programs to unexpected strong seasons. Here are some other top coaching jobs as the NCAA Tournament gets ready to begin with First Four matchups in Dayton, Ohio:

Dana Altman, Oregon

The Ducks lost 7-foot-2 center Bol Bol to an injury — and they're likely to lose him to the NBA now — and underachieved for much of the season. But after adding Francis Okoro to the lineup to create a starting unit with four guys at 6-9 alongside Payton Richard, the Ducks found their stride. They rolled to a Pac-12 Tournament title and are the No. 12 seed in the South.

"We had a lot of ups and downs. All of us were frustrated, the coaching staff, the players," Altman said, "but the resolve they showed to fight back and to really become a team and play for each other, it was really neat to see."

Buzz Williams, Virginia Tech

The Hokies lost point guard Justin Robinson to a foot injury in late January, but managed to stay

afloat down the stretch. They beat a Zion Williamson-less Duke to stay in the ACC mix and earned the No. 4 seed in the East.

Mike Young, Wofford

The Terriers were picked to finish second in the Southern Conference, but they went 29-4 and never lost a league contest. In fact, their only defeats came against Oklahoma, North Carolina, Kansas and Mississippi State — all teams that are dancing. Wofford was rewarded for playing that tough schedule, too. Young's team is the No. 7 seed in the Midwest and will open against Seton Hall with a potential showdown with Kentucky looming.

Nate Oats, Buffalo

After taking over Buffalo in 2015 following two seasons under Bobby Hurley, Oats has the Bulls playing in the NCAA Tournament for the third straight season. They beat Arizona in the tournament last season and have been even better this season, and that means the sixth-seeded team in the West Region could be poised to make a March run.

"I have been extremely impressed on how he has built this program to one that deserves national attention and respect," said Buffalo athletic director Mark Alnutt, who rewarded Oats with a new five-year contract in hopes of keeping suitors at bay.

Bruce Weber, Kansas State

The Wildcats lost star forward Dean Wade for long stretches of the season, including the entire Big 12 Tournament. They also played several games without point guard Kamau Stokes and backup guard Cartier Diarra. Yet they stilled tied Texas Tech for the regular-season Big 12 crown and earned the No. 4 seed in the South.

Kelvin Sampson, Houston

Yes, he still carries the baggage of NCAA violations at Indiana, but nobody can argue Sampson can't coach. He inherited a program that was 13-19 four years ago and turned it into a power, following an NCAA Tournament bid last year with its best season in decades.

"You always focus on the next practice, the next game, the next meeting, the next this, the next that," said Sampson, whose third-seeded Cougars open against Georgia State in the Midwest Region. "I have got a great group of young men, I'm very honored and lucky to be able to coach them every day and it's been a fun ride and we'll ride it as long as we can."

Scoreboard

FIRST FOUR At Dayton, Ohio Thursday, March 19

Fairleigh Dickinson 82, Prairie View A&M 76

Belmont 81, Temple 70
Wednesday, March 20
North Dakota State 78, N.C. Central 74
Arizona State 74, St. John's 65

EAST REGIONAL First Round Thursday, March 21 At Jacksonville, Fla.

LSU 79, Yale 74
Maryland 70-10 vs. Belmont (27-5)
At Des Moines, Iowa
Minnesota 86, Louisville 76
Michigan State (28-6) vs. Bradley (20-14)

Friday, March 22
At Columbia, S.C.
Duke (29-5) vs. North Dakota State (19-15), AFN-Sports 8 a.m. Saturday JKT
VCU (25-7) vs. UCF (23-8), AFN-Sports 2:30 a.m. Saturday CET, 10:30 a.m. Saturday JKT

At San Jose, Calif.
Mississippi State (23-10) vs. Liberty (28-6), AFN-Sports 12:15 a.m. Saturday CET, 8:15 a.m. Saturday JKT
Virginia Tech (24-8) vs. Saint Louis (23-12)

Second Round Saturday, March 23 At Jacksonville, Fla.

LSU (27-6) vs. Maryland-Belmont winner
At Des Moines, Iowa
Michigan State-Bradley winner vs. Minnesota (22-13)

Sunday, March 24
At Columbia, S.C.
Duke-N.C. Central-North Dakota State winner vs. VCU-UCF winner
At San Jose, Calif.
Virginia Tech-Saint Louis winner vs. Mississippi State-Liberty winner

SOUTH REGIONAL First Round Thursday, March 21 At Hartford, Conn.

Villanova (25-9) vs. Saint Mary's (22-11)
Purdue (23-9) vs. Old Dominion (26-8)

Friday, March 22
At Columbia, S.C.
Mississippi (20-12) vs. Oklahoma (19-13), AFN-Sports 5:30 p.m. Friday CET, 1:30 a.m. Saturday JKT
Virginia (29-3) vs. Gardner-Webb (23-11), AFN-Sports 8 p.m. Friday CET, 4 a.m. Saturday JKT

At Columbus, Ohio
Cincinnati (26-6) vs. Iowa (22-11), AFN-Sports 5 p.m. Friday CET, 1 a.m. Saturday JKT
Tennessee (29-5) vs. Colgate (24-10), AFN-Sports 7:30 p.m. Friday CET, 3:30 a.m. Saturday JKT

At San Jose, Calif.
Kansas State (25-8) vs. UC Irvine (30-5)
Wisconsin (23-10) vs. Oregon (23-12)

Second Round Saturday, March 23 At Hartford, Conn.

Purdue-Old Dominion winner vs. Villanova-Saint Mary's winner
Sunday, March 24
Virginia-Gardner-Webb winner vs. Mississippi-Oklahoma winner
At Columbus, Ohio
Tennessee-Colgate winner vs. Cincinnati-lower winner

At San Jose, Calif.
Kansas State-UC Irvine winner vs. Wisconsin-Oregon winner

MIDWEST REGIONAL First Round Thursday, March 21 At Jacksonville, Fla.

Kentucky (27-6) vs. Abilene Christian (27-6), AFN-Sports 5 a.m. Friday JKT
Wofford (29-4) vs. Seton Hall (20-13), AFN-Sports 10 a.m. Friday JKT

At Salt Lake City
Auburn (26-9) vs. New Mexico State (20-6)
Kansas (25-9) vs. Northeastern (23-10)

Friday, March 22
At Columbus, Ohio
Utah State (28-6) vs. Washington (26-8), AFN-Pacific 11:45 p.m. Friday CET, 7:45 a.m. Saturday JKT

North Carolina (27-6) vs. Iowa (17-15), AFN-Pacific 2:15 a.m. Saturday CET, 10:15 a.m. Saturday JKT

At Tulsa, Okla.
Houston (31-3) vs. Georgia State (24-9)
Iowa State (23-11) vs. Ohio State (19-14)

Second Round
Saturday, March 23
At Jacksonville, Fla.

Kentucky-Abilene Christian winner vs. Wofford-Seton Hall winner
At Salt Lake City
Kansas-Northeastern winner vs. Auburn-New Mexico State winner

Sunday, March 24
At Nationwide Arena
Columbus, Ohio
North Carolina-Iowa winner vs. Utah State-Washington winner

At Tulsa, Okla.
Houston-Georgia State winner vs. Iowa State-Ohio State winner

WEST REGIONAL First Round Thursday, March 21 At Hartford, Conn.

Florida State (27-7) vs. Vermont (27-6)
Marquette (24-9) vs. Murray St. (27-4)

At Des Moines, Iowa
Nevada (29-4) vs. Florida (19-15), AFN-Pacific 7:45 a.m. Friday JKT
Michigan (28-6) vs. Montana (26-8), AFN-Pacific 10:15 a.m. Friday JKT

At Salt Lake City
Gonzaga (30-3) vs. Fairleigh Dickinson (21-13), AFN-Sports 8:15 a.m. Friday JKT
Syracuse (20-13) vs. Baylor (19-13), AFN-Sports 11 a.m. Friday JKT

Friday, March 22
At Tulsa, Okla.
Texas Tech (26-6) vs. Northern Kentucky (26-8), AFN-Pacific 6 p.m. Friday JKT, 2 a.m. Saturday JKT

Buffalo (31-3) vs. Arizona State (23-10), AFN-Pacific 8:50 p.m. Friday CET, 4:50 a.m. Saturday JKT

Second Round Saturday, March 23 At Hartford, Conn.

Florida State-Vermont winner vs. Marquette-Murray State winner
At Wells Fargo Arena
Des Moines, Iowa
Michigan-Montana winner vs. Nevada-Florida winner

At Salt Lake City
Gonzaga-Fairleigh Dickinson winner vs. Syracuse-Baylor winner

Sunday, March 24
At Tulsa, Okla.
Texas Tech-Northern Kentucky winner vs. Buffalo-Arizona State vs. St. John's winner



NATI HARNIK/AP

Louisville's Jordan Nwora, right, goes to the basket against Minnesota's Amir Coffey during the first half of the first round game in Des Moines, Iowa, on Thursday. Minnesota won 86-76.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Bulldogs' Hachimura a rising star

Gonzaga big man gaining popularity back in Japan — and with NBA scouts

By JOHN MARSHALL
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Rui Hachimura leaned against a wall inside Las Vegas' Orleans Arena, towering above the boom microphones and cameras being held by the reporters below.

The Gonzaga big man patiently answered questions in Japanese for more than 15 minutes from the nearly two dozen reporters, including one who raised his hand and bowed after Hachimura gave him a thoughtful answer.

Hachimura is used to the attention by now. Whether it's back in his homeland of Japan or after a loss in the West Coast Conference tournament in Las Vegas, Hachimura always draws plenty of attention.

"I don't mind it," he said Wednesday in Salt Lake City as another group of Japanese reporters waited to ask questions. "But they do ask a lot of the same questions."

Hachimura has developed a huge following in Japan and in the United States from fans who have followed his rise from phenom to one of college basketball's best players.

Raw when he arrived at Gonzaga in 2016, Hachimura has developed into a possible NBA lottery pick as the Zags prepare

to face No. 16 seed Fairleigh Dickinson in the NCAA Tournament West Region on Thursday.

Hachimura became popular when he played for Japan's national youth teams and that popularity has grown exponentially as he has become the best player on one of American college basketball's premier programs.

Hachimura has put himself in position to become the third Japanese player to reach the NBA, joining Memphis Grizzlies forward Yuta Watanabe and Yuta Tabuse, who played four games for the Phoenix Suns 14 years ago.

"I do get noticed a lot, but I kind of get used to it," Hachimura said. "And it's an important time in national Japanese basketball history, so I'm fine with it."

Hachimura was a baseball player when he was younger, in part because the sport is so big in his home country, but also because he was just 5-foot-5.

Once he sprouted and reluctantly tried basketball to stop a friend's nagging at 13, Hachimura made a steady climb to stardom.

A 6-foot-8 forward, he drew international attention at the 2014 U-17 World Championships when he averaged 22.6 points and scored 25 against a U.S. team that featured future NBA players Jason Tatum, Harry Giles and Josh Jackson.

Hachimura also caught the attention of Gonzaga assistant coach Tommy Lloyd,



RICK BOWMER/AP

Gonzaga forward Rui Hachimura shoots during practice on Wednesday in Salt Lake City. Hachimura has put himself in position to become the third Japanese player to reach the NBA, joining Memphis Grizzlies forward Yuta Watanabe and Yuta Tabuse, who played four games for the Phoenix Suns 14 years ago.

who had a knack for bringing talented international players to Spokane, Wash.

Hachimura struggled when he first arrived at Gonzaga, with the American game, the culture and, particularly, the language.

"He was absorbing about 10 percent of what we were telling him," Gonzaga coach Mark Few said.

Hachimura worked hard on the language — with the help of Zags video coordinator Ken Nakagawa — and his game, becoming proficient at both.

The Japanese big man was a role player when Gonzaga reached its first national title game in 2017 and became a more important cog last season, averaging 11.6 points on a veteran team.

Hachimura made a big jump as a junior, boosting his scoring average to 20.1 points while shooting 62 percent and grabbing 6.6 rebounds. He has the size to play down low, developed a superb midrange jumper and improved his three-point shooting to 47 percent this season.



CHUCK BURTON/AP

North Carolina coach Roy Williams is no stranger to dynamic scoring trios — Tyler Hansbrough, Ty Lawson and Wayne Ellington combined to average 53.1 points per game in 2009 en route to Williams' second NCAA championship. This season's threesome of Cameron Johnson, Luke Maye and Coby White are Williams' highest scoring trio since that 2009 squad.

Adapt: Tar Heels' trio averaging 47.6 points per game

FROM BACK PAGE

"I'll tell you one thing: there's no meeting before the game where it's, 'All right, Coby this is your game, Luke this is your game,'" Johnson said Tuesday. "It just happens in the flow of the game."

"It's just kind of been our team dynamic. Throughout our play in practice, you'll see players kind of get hot in certain moments and we kind of right that in practice, so we're used to it."

Johnson, the 6-foot-8 graduate transfer in his second year after leaving Pittsburgh, is the leading scorer at 16.9 points. White has been terrific at pushing the tempo and attacking off the dribble to average 16.3 points. Then there's Maye, the 6-8 forward averaging a double-double (14.7 points, 10.5 rebounds).

Combining to average 47.9 points, they represent the Tar Heels' highest-scoring trio in a decade — when Tyler Hansbrough, Ty Lawson and Wayne Ellington (53.1) led the Tar Heels to Roy Williams' second NCAA championship in Detroit.

Williams said that 2009 winner — which included eventual NBA players Danny Green and Ed Davis — was a deeper team beyond the top three. By comparison, this year's team is more reliant on Johnson, White and Maye to carry the scoring load.

Johnson has been the most efficient of the three, shooting nearly 51 percent overall and ranking fifth nationally in three-point percentage (.465). White and Maye are both shooting 43 percent.

White became the first freshman in program history to have three 30-point games this season, while Maye cracked 30 points twice — including in UNC's win at Duke's Cameron Indoor Stadium. As for Johnson, he's had 10 20-point games, including in two of three matchups against the No. 1 overall tournament seed Blue Devils.

The Tar Heels (27-6) need them all to keep shooting, too.

"They know what's a good shot and what's not," senior guard Kenny Williams said. "But I think the selfishness is a big part of it. ... If there's somebody that's got it going, we're going to keep trying to find them."

SPORTS



Splash Mountain: Bucks' Lopez
an unlikely three-point threat

NBA, Page 53

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Pick your POISON

UNC's versatility gives
team ability to adapt,
regardless of defense

By AARON BEARD
Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C.

Cameron Johnson swears there's no deals among North Carolina's top three scorers determining who gets to lead the offense in each game. It sure seems that way sometimes, though.

The graduate wing, freshman point guard Coby White and senior Luke Maye have proven capable of carrying the Tar Heels on any given night. That has given the No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament's Midwest Region multiple ways to run its offense, whether through Johnson on the wing, Maye's inside-out game or White's ability to attack from anywhere.

And that makes the Tar Heels versatile enough to pivot against most defensive game plans entering Friday's game against 16-seed Iona in Columbus, Ohio.

SEE ADAPT ON PAGE 63

From left: North Carolina's
Cameron Johnson,
Luke Maye, and Coby White

AP photos

Take a bow: Ichiro says goodbye in Japan » MLB, Page 59

